

Arafat writes to Israeli activist

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan, jailed for meeting Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, received a letter of support in his prison cell Monday from the PLO's official spokesman, Ahmad Wahab Darawish, an Arab member of Israel's parliament, said he delivered Arafat's letter to Nathan after receiving it on a facsimile machine. Nathan, 62, met Arafat and PLO officials last year. He was sentenced in October to six months in prison for violating a law banning contacts with the PLO. Darawish said Arafat told Nathan that "he appreciates his struggle, which comes from deep beliefs," and hoped to meet him again in the future. "We have a common struggle to achieve a just peace in the Middle East and we are sure we will overcome obstacles and make a peace that serves the needs of both peoples," Darawish quoted Arafat as saying. Nathan, who operates the "Voice of Peace" radio station, believes Israel should negotiate a peace settlement with the PLO.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Jordan lambasts Israeli practices

NEW YORK (Petra) — Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations, Abdullah Salah, said Monday that the Israeli occupation "is the greatest violation of the rights of the Palestinian and Syrian peoples one can ever think of." Salah said Israel's "practices in the occupied territories are a means to terrorise the Palestinian and Syrian peoples and make their life impossible so as to force them to leave their lands and consequently enable it (Israel) to attain its proclaimed objective by permanently annexing their lands." Salah added in a speech he made to the General Assembly's Special Political Committee. Noting that the Intifada "was a surprise for Israel," Salah said that "what makes the people living under occupation tolerate Israel's ugly practices is their faith that their cause is just and that victory is inevitable." Salah reviewed Israeli measures to quell the Intifada and said: "There is currently an international consensus that the Palestinian people did all they can for peace. It is left for Israel to respond to the Palestinian Intifada so that a just solution to the Palestine cause can be attained... a solution that ensures restoration of the occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian people's practice of their inalienable rights including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state."

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Masked Palestinians wearing Israeli army uniforms link hands and march through a West Bank town marking the first anniversary of the proclamation of an independent Palestinian state.

Israeli police seek to bar 10,000 Gaza Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli police said Monday they wanted to bar 10,000 Gaza Strip Palestinians from Israel, nearly six times the present number, to combat a crime wave.

Police sources claimed the Palestinians involved were all known "criminals."

Israeli authorities in the Gaza Strip have yet to act on the recommendation. A list of banned Palestinians now has 1,760 names.

Police investigations chief Yehoshua Caspi said: "After the recent events, especially in the Tel Aviv area, we reached the conclusion there was a need to expand this list."

"The crime wave reached a peak last month with the murder of four Jews and three Arabs by a Palestinian dubbed by the press the 'Tel Aviv strangler'."

"Last time we limited ourselves to those who carried out crimes in the last five years," Caspi told Israel Radio. "This time we included in the list all those who at some time committed crimes we

believe might endanger public order."

Israel, fighting the 23-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, has issued computerised identity cards to keep out suspected Gaza activists seeking work in Israel.

Israeli Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev said Monday police planned to expand the system to the West Bank.

On Sunday, police captured a 32-year-old Palestinian from the Gaza Strip suspected of killing the five women and two men found beaten and strangled in two Tel Aviv apartments in Israel's most grisly multiple murder case.

Troops in Gaza shot and wounded a masked youth in a clash in Rafah Monday. He was taken in fair condition to a Beer-sheva hospital.

Palestinians said soldiers destroyed rooms of two summer houses and a water pipeline in Gaza in apparent retaliation for an ambush nearby in which two soldiers were killed last week.

They said a military outpost was being set up there.

In Nablus in the West Bank, Palestinian sources said an Arab threw a petrol bomb at an army vehicle carrying several soldiers. No one was injured but the vehicle was partly burned.

Soldiers earlier fired teargas and rubber bullets in the old cash market to disperse women protesting against what they called the deliberate killing of a local activist by undercover troops in the town.

Police in Jerusalem arrested a 12-year-old Palestinian for allegedly hurling five firebombs at Israeli patrols in the city. The boy and two other youths were ordered held until Tuesday while the case was investigated.

Amnesty International attacked Palestinian leaders in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Monday, saying they are reported to have endorsed the killing of Arabs that collaborate with Israel.

In a rare attack on a non-government body, the London-

based human rights body said more than 120 Palestinians had been killed by fellow Palestinians since the uprising in December 1987.

"Palestinian leaders are reported to have called for restraint and for warning procedures to be adopted first, but nevertheless to have endorsed or failed to condemn the killing of collaborators," an Amnesty statement said.

"Some apparently... (had) been interrogated and tortured. Such killings are believed to have been carried out mostly by special squads of Palestinians intending to punish people considered to be collaborating with the Israeli authorities."

Amnesty said it could take no action against the Palestinian leaders since it dealt only with governments.

"In the occupied territories, the Israeli government has exclusive de facto jurisdiction... it is therefore up to the Israeli authorities to bring to justice those involved in killing of alleged collaborators," it said.

Husseini says military will be used on Aoun

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon's Parliamentary Speaker Hussein Husseini said Monday that military steps would be taken against Christian army chief General Michel Aoun whom he accused of mutiny.

Husseini would not elaborate on the military means to overthrow Aoun.

The general commands 15,000 troops who upto Sept. 23 had fought a six-month shelling war with Syrian troops and their allies. The fighting ended in a ceasefire after 850 people were killed.

Husseini told Reuters in a telephone interview that the government of new President Rene Muawad would "take appropriate measures," including "military and legal," against Aoun, who heads a military government.

"Either he (Aoun) follows legitimate authority, or laws and regulations will deal with his case... there are clauses in the criminal law that dictate the means to punish a mutinous officer," Husseini said.

Aoun, whose troops control Beirut's Christian sector and the enclave to the North, rejected Muawad's election as president by the country's Christian and

Muslim deputies Nov. 5. The general contends Muawad is a Syrian puppet.

U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon John McCarthy is on his way home after presenting his credentials to Muawad.

McCarthy and all other American diplomats were withdrawn from Lebanon in early September amid civil strife.

The embassy was put in the hands of Lebanese guards. It is not being reopened yet, and McCarthy is on his way home after some 28 hours in Lebanon, a U.S. official, who declined to be identified, said in Washington Monday.

The ambassador presented his credentials Saturday to Muawad at the president's summer home at Ehden and went to Syrian en route to Washington.

Security sources and witnesses said Monday a small force of some 200 Syrian troops had deployed in Beirut's southern suburbs along the Muslim side of the city's green line battlefield facing part of the Christian enclave.

The sources said the deployment of the Syrian surveillance units, armed with rocket-propelled grenades and automatic rifles, was to quell clashes between pro-Syrian Amal militia

and the Iranian-backed Hizbollah (Party of God).

The two groups have been struggling for control of Lebanon's Shiite community.

But analysts said the Syrians, who took up their positions Thursday, had moved in to put psychological pressure on Aoun.

An Arab source said an Arab League committee, which drafted a peace plan for Lebanon leading to Muawad's election, would continue its international efforts to keep Aoun isolated.

"Aoun is playing with fire. He risks igniting a new round of war that would be catastrophic for Lebanon," he said.

Husseini said a unity cabinet of all warring factions would be formed despite opposition by Aoun who is putting pressure on key Christian players not to join the new government.

"The train has been put on the peace track. The train is moving. All arrangements and measures needed to form the cabinet will be taken and the government will take place," he said.

The Al Masira magazine, mouthpiece of the hardline rightist Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, Monday urged LF chief Samir Geagea to join the government to save Lebanon from partition.

The 12,000-men strong LF, the

strongest rightist militia, and the Falange party have not disclosed their decisions yet.

"Any government of national reconciliation which will be formed... will be recognised by the Vatican, the superpowers and France... by the whole region including Iraq. It is not permissible that Christian participation in an internationally-backed government be weak," it said in an editorial.

"Surely Damascus does not want us in this government or any other one. Should we give it this gift?" it asked.

"The popular base of the LF, its fighters and Christians in general are asking you, leader of the LF, to come out of your silence," it said.

In West Beirut, the National Front grouping Syrian-backed parties said in a statement it would not join any government which did not include all rival sides.

Political sources said Muawad and Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss were considering a substitute to the national unity cabinet to include some 14 parliamentarians and political leaders.

They said it would be a temporary government entrusted with overcoming obstacles to form the unity cabinet.

Mubarak advises PLO not to reject Baker's proposal

CAIRO (AP) — For the first time, President Hosni Mubarak Monday publicly advised the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) not to reject a U.S. plan for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

Nevertheless, a report from Tunis by Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) indicated the PLO and Arafat remain far apart on the plan proposed last month by Secretary of State James Baker.

Mubarak denied reports published Monday that the PLO had sent its reply to the Baker plan to Cairo for relay to Washington.

He said Cairo had not received the PLO reply "until now." But a PLO emissary later arrived from the Tunisian capital, and MENA said his mission was to tell Egypt the Palestinian position.

Mubarak told reporters he hoped it was not rejection. President Mubarak expressed his hope that the reply will not be negative, MENA said without giving the president's exact words.

He added: "We do not put pressure on anyone, but we must help to push the process forward."

The comments were made after Mubarak welcomed Cyprus President George Vassiliou for a three-day official visit.

Baker proposed the dialogue between Israel and a Palestinian delegation to prepare the ground for Israeli-proposed elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. The elections would be to choose Palestinian delegates for talks with Israel on interim "autonomy" in the territories. Negotiations on a final settlement would be held later.

Israel has told the United States it would accept the Baker proposal if the Americans provided some assurances designed mainly to exclude the PLO from negotiations and to confine the preliminary dialogue to the Israeli election plan.

The PLO recently requested clarifications of the Baker plan and got a reply through Egypt. PLO leaders were reported meeting in the Tunisian capital last week to formulate a final answer to the proposal.

In Monday's dispatch from Tunis, MENA said PLO leader Yasser Arafat sent Gamal Al Sourany, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, with a

message to Mubarak explaining the organisation's position. The envoy arrived in early afternoon.

The agency quoted Palestinian sources in Tunis as saying the PLO was holding to its insistence that it alone has the right to choose delegates to the dialogue and that the dialogue agenda be open and unconditional. Both demands run counter to the Israeli position.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who announced the election proposal last May, has insisted throughout there can be no question of Israel relinquishing the West Bank and Gaza in any settlement.

Mubarak brushed aside this contention Monday, noting U.S. opposition to Israel's retaining the territories occupied since the 1967 war.

"Shamir can say what he wants," Mubarak said. "The United States has said and is saying (it supports trading) land-for-peace."

Shamir said in an interview on Israel army radio Monday that

(Continued on page 5)

Moscow encouraging Syria to drop 'strategic parity' posture

WASHINGTON (R) — New realities in the Soviet Union and Syria's ability to pay are among considerations which will affect the level of Moscow's arms supplies, the Soviet ambassador to Syria was quoted as saying Monday.

The Washington Post newspaper quoted Ambassador Alexander Zotov as saying in an interview that Moscow was encouraging Syria to abandon its quest for military parity with Israel in favour of defensive strategy.

Zotov first raised questions about the Soviet Union's commitment to its main Arab ally at an unusual news conference in Moscow two months ago when he told the Syrians bluntly that Moscow could not be expected to continue providing everything requested by Syria.

He reiterated this in the Washington Post interview,

saying that Soviet efforts to meet Syria's future military needs would take into account "the limits of our capabilities" to provide advanced equipment and Syria's ability to pay.

He added one condition — "due observance" to the principle of "reasonable defensive sufficiency."

He defined this principle as the "capability to inflict unacceptable losses" on Israel after an attack on Syria.

Syria has constantly said that "strategic parity" with Israel was the only way to force the Zionist state to withdraw from the occupied territories, including Syria's Golan Heights.

In an apparent rebuttal of the Syrian strategy, Zotov said in the interview in Damascus that "military force is not a final argument. It's not a certificate of security... we really believe the

balance of forces is an out-of-date approach."

The Soviet Union has long been Syria's main arms supplier and the Washington Post said that as recently as 1986, the largest contingent of Soviet advisers in the developing world was stationed there.

It said Western analysts first noticed a fall-off in the volume and sophistication of Soviet military hardware going to Syria in 1987.

Zotov said the aim of strengthening Syria's defences "would be to make her potential adversary, supposedly Israel, think twice before planning an offensive action."

He said the Soviet Union recognised Damascus's real need for a modern air defence system because of its "deeply rooted feeling of insecurity" with Israeli military positions only 50 kilometres away.

Moscow welcomes Cheney statement

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union Monday welcomed U.S. Defence Secretary Richard Cheney's comments that America's defence budget could be trimmed to take into account improving East-West ties and changes in the East bloc.

"It is not accidental that this announcement has appeared on the eve of the Soviet-American summit," the government newspaper Izvestia said. Presidents Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush hold their shipboard summit off Malta early next month.

"They (the Americans) are sending a signal to Moscow — the ice has been broken where it was the most solid," Izvestia said in a front-page commentary.

Cheney, in an interview with ABC Television Sunday, said no decisions had yet been made on military spending cuts, but budget constraints and changes in Eastern Europe would mean significant reductions for the U.S. armed forces.

He also said the likelihood of conflict between the superpowers or between the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact was probably lower than at any time since the end of World War II.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Vadim Perfilov told a news conference that Moscow welcomed Cheney's statement.

"The USSR sees this as a manifestation that new political thinking is winning more and more stable ground in the world, and the arms race is constantly weakening," Perfilov said.

Coalition accord remains elusive for Greek leaders

ATHENS (R) — Greek political leaders failed again Monday to form an all-party national unity government to end a 15-day crisis with debts piling up and foreign policy frozen.

"The talks have ended for today. The party leaders will meet again on Tuesday," Press Ministry spokesman Yannis Pountos told reporters. He declined to give any details of the talks.

Conservative, Socialist and Communist party leaders have met for the past four days to try to resolve the crisis which has paralysed action on Greece's pressing problems.

Those include a budget deficit nearing 22 per cent of Greece's total output of goods and ser-

vices, or gross domestic product, and a decision on whether to shut U.S. bases by next June as threatened.

Each of the main parties failed to find coalition partners after elections on Nov. 5, prompting the attempts to form a short-term all-party government to give election-weary voters a break from the ballot box.

Political commentators have given the leaders no better than a 50-50 chance of succeeding, and heading off the third election this year, expected Dec. 17, if talks fail.

"There are explosive economic and social problems... but for our political leaders these pressing issues seem of minor importance

compared to short-term party interests," political columnist Nikos Nikolaou said.

The new 300-seat parliament was sworn in Monday, but if the talks break down it may be dissolved by President Christos Sartzetakis this week.

After the ceremony for new deputies, Sartzetakis summoned Conservative leader Constantine Mitsotakis, Socialist leader Andreas Papandreu and Communist leader Harilaos Florakis to pursue the efforts to resolve the political impasse.

The talks have been deadlocked from the outset over demands by Papandreu, prime minister from 1981 until his June election defeat.

Tehran rejects Baghdad demand

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran Monday rejected Iraqi demands for full sovereignty over the Shatt Al Arab waterway as a price for durable peace in the Gulf war.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told a news conference in Tehran that the 1975 Algiers treaty effectively dividing the border river between Iran and Iraq was an internationally-recognised agreement binding on both sides.

The national Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Velayati as contending that a deadlock in Gulf peace talks was due to obstacles created by the Iraqi government.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said Saturday Iraq would not pull out of the Iranian territory it held unless Tehran accepted Baghdad's sovereignty over the Shatt which forms part of the southern border between the two countries.

Velayati said: "Statements by the Iraqi foreign minister or any other country would make no difference, that is it would neither add to or take away anything from its (the Algiers accord) credibility," according to IRNA received in Nicosia.

The Iranian minister said Baghdad had dashed hopes of ending the stalemate in peace negotiations by rejecting a Tehran proposal for a simultaneous withdrawal of Iraqi troops from 2,600 square kilometres of Iranian territory and an exchange of some 100,000 prisoners of war (PoWs) held by both sides.

Iran had previously insisted that Iraqi troops should leave its territory first.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein declared the Algiers agreement null and void in 1980 shortly before the start of the Gulf war.

A United Nations-sponsored ceasefire came into effect in August 1988, ending the fighting. But peace talks which started five days later have made little headway.

Velayati also indicated Monday his country may release Egyptian prisoners of the war, IRNA reported.

The agency reported Velayati as indicating that PoWs whose countries had good relations with Iran maybe released.

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Ethiopia, EPLF resume talks as famine looms

NAIROBI (R) — While negotiators wrangled Monday over procedure at talks to end Africa's longest war, a million people face starvation in a new Ethiopian famine.

Discussions chaired by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter began in Nairobi between the Ethiopian government and the rebel Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF).

The meeting is due to work out an agenda for full-scale peace negotiations and will debate the appointment of an African co-chairman to assist Carter as well as international observers and a conference secretariat.

Conference sources said the EPLF wanted to give the observers and secretariat mediating powers but the Ethiopian government wanted their authority to be limited.

The EPLF's chief negotiator, Al Amin Mohammed Said, used his opening speech at the talks to appeal for international aid to prevent a "catastrophic" new famine in the province following the war.

"We urge the international community to recognise the extent of the impending disaster and mobilise the necessary resources to stave off another famine of huge proportions,"

Amin said.

The EPLF, the government and the United Nations have all warned that more than a million of Eritrea's 3.5 million people could starve next year unless relief supplies reach them in time.

Several hundred thousand more peasants have been hit by drought in neighbouring Tigray province, which is now entirely in rebel hands.

In his opening speech, the Ethiopian government's chief negotiator, Ashagne Yigleu, warned that recent rebel advances threatened to tear the nation apart.

Since the beginning of the previous round of talks in Atlanta, Georgia, last September, he said, "a grave and orchestrated challenge has been posed to the security of our country and to our national unity through the cover and instrumentality of various opposition groups."

"Not only does the government view this as an obstacle to the success of the current peace talks, but it also finds it a dangerous threat to the welfare of our people," he added.

The Tigray People's Liberation

Front (TPLF), another rebel movement in northern Ethiopia which is allied to the EPLF, has pressed southwards since the end of August, inflicting series of humiliating defeats on the government.

It has overrun much of Wollo and Gondar provinces and has even captured two towns in Shoa, where the capital Addis Ababa is situated.

But the two rebel movements are negotiating separately with the Soviet-backed government of President Mengistu Haile Mariam because of their different aims.

The TPLF is fighting to overthrow Mengistu's government and set up a broader-based administration in the whole of Ethiopia, but the EPLF is seeking only the independence of Eritrea province, former Italian colony.

The EPLF, which took no part in the Atlanta talks, held a first round of negotiations with government representatives in Rome earlier this month with the Italian government as an independent observer.

Carter said Monday about one million people had been killed in the 28-year Eritrean war, Africa's longest running conflict.

He said each side had already proved during the 12 days of talks in Atlanta "their sincerity and dedication, their eagerness to achieve peace."



Ethiopian People's Liberation Front guerrillas train at one of their hideouts

Slain rebel leader's wife says Iran was ready to give Kurds self-rule

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani agreed to give rebellious Kurds limited self-rule, but the plan was torpedoed when guerrilla leader Abdul Rahman Qassemolou was assassinated in Vienna, Qassemolou's widow said Monday.

Tape recordings of several meetings between Qassemolou and Iranian emissaries she received after Qassemolou's assassination July 13 showed that Rafsanjani agreed last winter to grant Iran's 6 million Kurds limited self rule after he was elected, she said.

Rafsanjani, leader of Tehran's so-called pragmatists, was elected Iran's president on July 28.

Helen Qassemolou said that during the first round of talks held in Vienna last winter, Rafsanjani's envoys said he was ready to set up an elected Kurdish Regional Council, permit the Kurds to speak and teach their own language and appoint their own officials.

"The emissaries said that Rafsanjani was ready to allow the Kurds to have a greater say in running their affairs and he was ready to sign an agreement on condition there would be no reference to autonomy," she said.

The envoys explained that the word autonomy could encourage other minorities in Iran to press for similar rights that could create problems for Rafsanjani's administration.

Qassemolou, 59, whose Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) is fighting the Iranians from sanctuaries in Iraq, was shot at a secret rendezvous with Iranian agents in a Vienna apartment to discuss ending the rebellion against Tehran.

Qassemolou's widow, a Czech who lives in Paris with her two daughters, said Rafsanjani asked in return that the KDP disband its guerrillas, who are known as Peshmergas, or "those who face death."

They intensified their mountain war against the Iranians after Qassemolou was assassinated.

The rebel chief's widow said

that he was ready to accept Rafsanjani's terms and had convinced the KDP's leadership to approve them as well.

Under the agreement, a pro-Iranian Kurdish faction, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan led by veteran guerrilla Jalal Talabani, would deploy in the Sardasht area of north west Iran to oversee the demobilisation of KDP forces after Qassemolou and Rafsanjani signed a peace accord, Mrs. Qassemolou said.

"They were supposed to play a peace-keeping role in the interim period leading to self-rule for the Iranian Kurds," she said.

Talabani, whose forces and a pro-Iranian wing of the KDP have been fighting the Iraqis for autonomy for their 3.5 million people in north east Iraq, acted as a mediator between Qassemolou and Rafsanjani.

In return, he wanted Qassemolou to mediate a similar arrangement between Baghdad and the PUK, which was backed by Iran during the 8-year Gulf war with Iraq. It is not known how far that effort got before Qassemolou was killed in Vienna.

She said that despite his attacks on Iranian forces, Qassemolou always believed that the Kurdish problem in Iran could only be solved through dialogue and negotiation.

"He was a strong supporter of a peaceful settlement right from the beginning and believed that arms should be resorted to only when peaceful means had failed," she said.

She said her husband was killed by the Iranian faction led by former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, Rafsanjani's

main political rival.

"If Mohtashemi's faction planned the assassination and carried it out it was impossible that Rafsanjani's group would not have known about it," she said.

Tehran has denied it was involved in the slaying. It claimed Iraqi agents killed Qassemolou to block a rapprochement between Tehran and Iranian Kurds.

She also accused the Austrian government of covering up her husband's slaying and refusing to name the assassins.

But she said she is determined to pursue her husband's case "until the criminals are brought to justice."

"It's a matter of principle and for the record that I, my family, the Kurdish people and everybody knows who killed my husband," she said.

She said if the Austrian government will not reveal the names of the assassins she will take legal action against it and lodge a complaint against the Austrians in the United Nations.

Austrian police issued arrest warrants for two Iranians following the assassination of Qassemolou and two other Kurds in Vienna.

One was identified as Amir Mansour Bozorgian, one of the Iranian envoys. The other was not named.

Qassemolou met his future wife when he was studying in Prague, the Czech capital, and they married in 1952. He was later elected leader of the pro-Iraqi wing of the KDP.

She lived with him in Iran before moving to the rugged mountainous area in Iraq.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Sudan denies Mahdi released

KHARTOUM (R) — The Sudanese government Monday denied a report that former Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi had been let out of jail and put under house arrest. The state-controlled Khartoum daily Al Engaz Al Watani reported Sunday that Mahdi, the head of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), Mohammed Osman Al Mirghani, and Hassan Al Tourabi, leader of the National Islamic Party (NIP) had been freed from jail and placed under house arrest. "What one newspaper published in this regard yesterday was totally unfounded," Information Minister Ali Shomou said. The three men are still under investigation, he added. The newspaper published a front-page apology, saying its erroneous report was based on information given to one of its reporters by an official whom it did not name him. Mahdi, Mirghani and Tourabi have been detained without being charged since a military coup toppled Mahdi's government on June 30.

Rafsanjani seeks better links with GCC

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has called for expanded political and economic relations with Gulf Arab states, the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) said. "Stability and security in the region will be possible only through mutual cooperation," IRNA quoted Rafsanjani as telling Iran's ambassadors to the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait at a meeting in Tehran. He urged Gulf states not to adopt policies which could create a "dark spot" in the improving trend of their relations with Iran. Since Rafsanjani was elected president in July, Iran, which does not have diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia, has said that it wants better links with its neighbours.

Algeria legalises opposition party

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria has legalised the Socialist Forces Front led by prominent political exile Hocine Ait Ahmed, the Algerian News Agency (AFS) said Monday. The party, known by its French initials FFS, is the eighth opposition group to be legalised under sweeping democratic reforms to introduce multi-party politics to Algeria. Ait Ahmed, 63, split from the ruling National Liberation Front in 1963 and has lived in exile in Switzerland since 1966. His party favours Socialist economic policies, decentralisation of decision-making and greater recognition for the non-Arab Berber culture. It draws much of its support from the Berber-speaking Kabylie Mountain region east of Algiers. It has recently been split by a dispute over Ait Ahmed's leadership and some members have formed a rival FFS.

Egyptian weekend moves forward

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's official weekend is to move forward by one day under a surprise decree announcing that government offices and many public sector companies should close Thursdays and Fridays. Most public workers, awarded a two-day weekend two years ago, took Fridays and Saturdays as their days off. A few government departments closed Thursdays and Fridays. Government officials said Monday that Prime Minister Atef Sedki had decided that all public workers should take the same days off and that the weekend would fall Thursday and Friday as of this week. Banks will continue to close Fridays and Saturdays. Many Western embassies take their weekends Saturdays and Sundays and are expected to continue to do so. It was not clear whether all government departments would follow Sedki's decree immediately or whether any would be exempted from the ruling.

Riyadh, Aden end talks

ADEN (R) — Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal has ended two days of talks in South Yemen on political and economic ties, the Aden News Agency said Monday. It said the Saudi delegation to the first meeting of the South Yemen-Saudi Ministerial Committee returned home late Sunday. No statement was issued after the talks ended. Prince Saud met Ali Salem Al Balidi, the secretary-general of the ruling Yemeni Socialist Party, the news agency said. Saudi Arabia gives financial aid to South Yemen, one of the poorest Arab countries. Nearly half a million South Yemenis work in the kingdom. South Yemen has recently been moving towards democracy and trying to improve ties with other Arab states. Talks are underway to establish unity with North Yemen.

U.S. asks Europe not to relax Libya sanctions

NICOSIA (AP) — The United States has urged the European Community and several European countries individually not to relax diplomatic sanctions against Libya, the Middle East Economic Survey reported Monday.

The respected, Nicosia-based newsletter said it understands the United States is still adamantly refusing to ease its own economic and diplomatic sanctions against Libya which would permit a settlement between Libya and five U.S. oil companies with investments in the North African oil producer.

"It is apparent that the U.S. position stems from a long-term policy that there should be no easing of political and economic sanctions against Libya until there are basic changes in Tripoli's foreign policy, particularly as regards international terrorism and chemical weapons capacity,"

the weekly newsletter said.

"During the past few weeks, the U.S. State Department has made it clear to the EC that it would not favour any relaxation of the European sanctions against Libya," it said.

Sanctions were adopted against Libya in 1986 after Libya was accused of involvement in terrorist acts against U.S. installations in Europe.

The United States and European countries restricted the number and activities of Libyan diplomats and suspended high-level contacts. The United States imposed a trade embargo and ordered U.S. companies to cease operations in Libya.

Libyan negotiations with five U.S. oil companies — Marathon, Conoco, Occidental, Amerasia Hess and W.R. Grace — to resume operations are stalemated. The Bush administration has

stuck to tough preconditions for the companies' return to Libya — no Libyan oil sold to the United States, no Americans working in Libya, no transfer of U.S. oil industry parts or technology, and no training for Libyans in the United States.

"The companies' efforts to persuade the U.S. administration to soften its position have so far been unavailing," the Middle East Economic Survey said.

But it said it "understands that despite the official deadlock, both NOC (Libyan National Oil Company) and the oil firms are willing to continue the negotiations."

However, no meetings are scheduled for further negotiations since the Libyans feel this is useless without a change in the U.S. conditions, the newsletter said.

The U.S. State Department

publicly expressed concern about a last week's decision by France to return to Libya three Mirage fighter-bombers that had been held after being returned to Aerospatiale factories for repairs in 1986.

French sources said the return of the planes was authorised following the Aug. 31 agreement for a peaceful solution to the border dispute between Libya and Chad. France supported Chad in the dispute.

The State Department, in a statement released last Friday, said: "We are quite concerned and disappointed with this decision. We do not believe that now is the time to weaken sanctions against Libya."

The United States said Libya had not demonstrated concrete changes in its policies of supporting terrorism and destabilisation.

Iraq releases \$50m for Egyptians

CAIRO (R) — Iraq has pledged about \$1 million a day in back pay to Egyptian workers to meet one of the complaints that have contributed to an exodus of Egyptians from Iraq.

Foreign Ministry sources said Monday Iraq had agreed to release \$50 million between now and the end of the year to meet the claims of Egyptian workers.

Hundreds of thousands of Egyptians who went to work in Iraq during the Gulf war with Iran rushed to leave Baghdad after new curbs were introduced on the amount of cash they could send back to Egypt.

The Egyptians are estimated by Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki Sunday as numbering between one and three million.

Many said they feared for their lives, claiming that demobilised Iraqi soldiers were attacking Egyptians to scare them out of their jobs. The reports have not been verified.

Ministers of both countries said the exodus was easing at the weekend. Extra flights laid on to bring Egyptian workers home were stopped as of Sunday.

The issue was tested one of the closest alliances in the Middle East. Egypt backed Iraq in its eight-year war with Iran and both are members of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), an economic grouping which includes Jordan and North Yemen.

But ministers of both countries, meeting in Cairo Sunday, said the problem was on its way to being solved.

Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan said that money owed to Egyptian workers would be repaid in stages.

"We are prepared to sacrifice everything to protect this relationship between the two peoples," he told a meeting of students and lecturers at Cairo University.

Workers in Cairo said Monday they were told that no money had arrived.

About 100 angry workers queuing outside the Cairo branch of Iraq's Rafedain Bank said a bank official told them that no dollars had arrived.

Foreign Ministry sources said Iraq had pledged to transfer \$10

million every 10 days to Egypt to meet claims made by Egyptian workers. The first transfer was made on Nov. 16.

Priority would go to Egyptians who had left Iraq for good and to the families of those who had died there. At least \$300 million more would be repaid in stages.

Egyptians say they are still worried about reports of an increase in the number of bodies sent back for burial.

Iraq has said the Egyptians died in accidents which could happen anywhere and Foreign Ministry sources said Cairo was satisfied by the explanation.

But in Iraq, Egyptians complained Sunday they were subject to increasing violence and accused their government of failing to look after them properly.

Sedki told reporters the two sides had found a partial but satisfactory solution.

"I can't tell you exactly but I think this rush to come home will stop," he said.

But a Reuters correspondent in Baghdad reported Sunday night that hundreds of Egyptians were still queuing to get a ticket home.

Qatar praises Arab organisations

NICOSIA (R) — The Emir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani Monday praised Arab organisations as fostering unity and joint political action.

"Arab groupings are a positive step to strengthen Arab unity and to back joint Arab action," he told the Omani News Agency in an interview ahead of a summit of

the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Muscat in December.

"We have supported the formation of these councils because their goals are identical to that of the GCC," he said.

Sheikh Khalifa was referring to the formation of two Arab organisations — the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) grouping

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen and the Arab Maghreb Union comprising Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Mauritania.

Qatar is a member of the six-nation GCC, an economic and political alliance grouping Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.



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15:30	Korana
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programmes
15:50	News summary in Arabic
15:55	Local programme
15:58	Agribusiness programme
16:00	Programme review
16:05	News in Arabic
16:10	Arabic series
16:15	Local programme
16:20	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
16:30	Documentary
16:35	News in French
16:40	News in Hebrew
16:45	News in Arabic
16:50	Different world
16:55	Super Sense
17:00	Baby Boom
17:05	News in English
17:10	Hunter
PRAYER TIMES	
04:44	Fajr
06:04	Sunrise
11:21	Dhuhr
14:14	Asr
16:38	Maghreb
17:59	Isha

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweitha Tel. 810740.	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 63785, 68326.	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440.	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622266	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.	
Armenian International Church Tel. 683326.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Slight rise in temperatures will occur and winds will be light and variable. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

AMMAN	
Min./Max. temp.	4/20
Aqaba	12/25
Deserts	2/21
Jordan Valley	14/23
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 20, Aqaba 25. Humidity readings: Amman 50 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Zein Al Zaghoul	638591
Dr. Othman Mustafa	774024
Dr. Ali Al'ad	877919
Dr. Abdul Wahab Aweid	746070
First pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	776356
Al Asema pharmacy	670255
Nairook pharmacy	625672
Al Salan pharmacy	636730
Yasoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsan pharmacy	657660
IRBID:	
Dr. Radwan Al Sa'ad	(-)

Al Sharas' pharmacy	(985238)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Walid Halaseh	(-)
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 691111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	980320
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	845645
Police Complaints	667279
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	771017
Complaints	642816
Telephone Information	787111
(directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111

Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	634381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	642816
Akshah Maternity, J. Amn.	642816
Jabal Amman Maternity	642816
Madhan, J. Amman	661404
Palestine, Shamsan	661414
Shamsan Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845645
Al-Muhsin Hospital	891611/15
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali	661466
Islamic, Al-Muhajirin	771017
Al-Bashir, J. Amman	775112/26
Army, Madhan	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	662240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarga Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarga National Hospital	(09)981071
Jbn Sina Hospital	(09)986732

IRBID:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275355
Great Catholic Hospital	(02)722725
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital	(02)247100
AQABA:	

Seminar addresses needs of disabled

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — In an effort to discuss and resolve difficulties facing disabled people and the daily challenges they must endure, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the Regional Bureau of the Middle East Committee for the Blind are hosting a conference in Amman.

The conference, which was inaugurated by Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday morning, is expected to deal with several pressing issues facing over 18 million disabled persons in the Arab World.

The community of 18 million disabled persons in the Arab World belongs to a world community of 500 million disabled. Although many of the needs of the disabled are very similar some of the causes have regional and cultural origins which are not necessarily universal.

In her opening address, Queen Noor told the gathering that "because the extent and nature of disabilities in our region are not adequately delineated, the

groundwork and documentation for this conference will prove valuable both as preparatory information to stimulate your discussions and as an impetus for greater regional information-sharing and policy-planning coordination in the future."

U.N. Undersecretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCWA Tayseer Abdel Jaber said the conference was aimed at reviewing the "progress made in the area of disability in the region during the past decade, identifying obstacles facing future progress and developing a new, concrete set of recommendations that will guide governments, non-governmental national and local organisations and the U.N. in developing their future activities."

The Queen, stressed that the methods and means chosen to deal with the disabled "can reveal much about our Arab culture ... and ancient tradition of caring" and these traditions can be translated into practical opportunities for the disabled in the Arab society.

The Queen told the audience of 120 Arab and international participants "that most countries of the region are still unable to

accurately identify the full nature and extent of disability, to devise and implement appropriate long-term strategies, or to provide sufficient facilities for early detection, care, training, education or rehabilitation." She also pointed out that the regional economic environment, which has been characterised by an economic recession among other things, "may lead to debilitating and more lasting negative consequences for the disabled and for other vulnerable groups in society."

Some of the main causes for disabilities in the Middle Eastern region such as inter-marriage, traffic accidents and armed conflicts "are likely to persevere well into the early years of next century," the Queen said.

Referring to the growing number of disabled persons around the world, Dr. Mohammad Sharif from the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs at the U.N. head office in Vienna pointed out that "when people with disabilities are considered collectively, we realise that they can be a most inspiring and energetic force, provided they have the opportunities to develop." He added that in the 20th century the world can "no longer

afford to have a silent neglected minority of such potential."

Queen Noor said that in the Middle Eastern region the "limited pool of facilities and trained staff dedicated to the disabled is a major obstacle to expanding opportunities for the disabled." She pointed out that on a regional and international level, the pool could be increased through bilateral, regional and international cooperation and collaboration in the production, transfer and application of modern technology which, she said, could help equalise opportunities for the disabled.

The participants in the Amman conference, quite a number of whom are themselves disabled working for the improvement of the condition of the disabled in societies around the world, will present working papers dealing with major issues facing the disabled.

Dr. Sharif, who said in his address at the opening session that he was slowly losing his sight, pointed out that "the disabled working for the disabled have a very special insight into the 'real' issues facing this ever-increasing world community of 500 million people."



Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday shakes hands with one of the participants in a conference on the needs of the disabled.

Higher Health Council amendment approved

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Monday approving an amendment to laws of the Higher Health Council. Under the amendment, the council which would be chaired by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker will group ministers of health, interior, higher education, finance and planning, the directors of the National Medical Institution (NMI), the Social Security Corporation, the Royal Medical Services, and the Department of Environment and the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs as well as the secretary general of the Health Ministry.

The amendment also clearly outlines the authorities invested in the council allowing it to promote the level of medical services in the country.

Jordan-S. Yemeni committee

Another Royal Decree issued Monday approved the establishment of a Higher Jordanian-South Yemeni ministerial committee to plan comprehensive cooperation between Jordan and South Yemen.

The two countries reached an agreement earlier this year to form the committee, which will seek to raise the standard of bilateral cooperation and to fix dates for meetings and other procedural matters.

Equipment for disabled on display in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Zuhair Malhas Monday opened an exhibition of modern technological equipment for the handicapped organised by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel.

The exhibition, organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Development, includes a range of equipment designed to help handicapped persons overcome their disabilities and books and publications as well as documentary video films to improve speech abilities of handicapped persons.

The four-day exhibition which was also co-sponsored by Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the

Amman-based regional office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and local and foreign companies, displays handicrafts and knit-wear produced by the handicapped at rehabilitation centres in different parts of the Kingdom.

Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid, and ESCWA Executive Secretary General Tayseer Abdul Jaber were among those attending the opening ceremony.

ESCWA, in cooperation with the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), is organising a concert at the Palace of Culture Tuesday evening featuring the Egyptian orchestra "Al Amal Wal Nur."

Desert dams built in Rweished region

AMMAN (J.T.) — Construction of dams is going ahead in the Rweished region near the Iraqi border to store an estimated 12.5 million cubic metres of rain water annually, according to Dr. Mohammad Shakhateh, who is in charge of a development project in the area.

The latest rains in Rweished did not exceed six millimetres but caused streams through the wadis, Shakhateh said. He said dams could be built as soon as possible to collect the rain water for the ongoing development projects.

Work is going ahead also on the development of a 7,500-square-kilometre semi-desert land in the Rweished area in accordance with plans drawn up in the 1986-1990 five-year plan, Shakhateh noted.

The Rweished district constitutes 22 per cent of the Jordanian part of the 36,720-square-kilometre Hamman Basin, which is inhabited by 3,000 people. The basin area is shared with Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Syria.

Shakhateh said engineers had already prepared designs for two desert dams.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ARAFAT CONGRATULATES KING: His Majesty King Hussein Monday received a congratulatory cable from Palestine President Yasser Arafat on the occasion of His Majesty's birthday. Arafat wished the King continued good health and happiness. Also in his cable Arafat affirmed his pride in the state of relations between Jordan and Palestine. King Hussein also received another congratulatory cable from the Arab Community Union in Chile on the occasion. (Petra)

SHARIF ZEID VISITS GHQ: Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Monday visited the Armed Forces General Headquarters and discussed with Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb matters related to the Armed Forces. (Petra)

JORDAN-TUNISIA PROGRAMME: The Cabinet Monday endorsed the executive programme for cultural cooperation between Jordan and Tunisia for the next three years. The programme is designed to increase cultural cooperation between the two countries. (Petra)

WRITERS HONOUR UZAIZI: The Association of Jordanian Writers Monday held a celebration at the Royal Cultural Centre in honour of Rox Ben Zayed Al Uzaizi. A number of speeches were delivered highlighting the outstanding role Uzaizi played in the field of literature. Uzaizi was awarded the association shield as well as a shield given by Madaba Municipality during the celebration. Minister of Culture and Information Nasoub Majali, and a number of the association members attended the meeting. (Petra)

ETHIOPIAN TEAM IN JORDAN: Minister of Agriculture Bassam Saket Monday received a visiting delegation representing the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture. The talks dealt with means to develop cooperation in the field of agriculture and to benefit from Jordan's agricultural expertise. The Ethiopian delegation, headed by the ministry's under-secretary, also visited the National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer and was briefed on the centre's various activities. (Petra)

MEETING ON RADIO, TV: A technical committee set up by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) opened an annual meeting in Amman Monday to discuss issues related to broadcasting and means to improve beaming television and radio programmes. Attending the meeting are delegates from the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Italy, Sweden, West Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, the United States, Finland, Japan, and Canada in addition to Jordan, which is an associate member taking part in all the union's activities.

KHAYYAT MEETS INDONESIAN MINISTER: Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat met in Amman Monday with Subarji Rustum, Indonesia's minister of development, and later accompanied the guest on a visit to the King Abdullah Iba Al Hussein Mosque. The Indonesian minister paid tribute to the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs for its cooperation with various Islamic countries in matters related to religion. (Petra)

DRUG OFFENDER SENTENCED: The military court Monday sentenced Sa'di Abdullah Hassan for two-year imprisonment and payment of JD 1,500 fine for possession of hashish. The military governor endorsed the sentence. (Petra)

SAUDI POWER TEAM ENDS VISIT: A team from an electricity corporation in the western region of Saudi Arabia led by Dr. Baker Al Khazim Monday wound up a week-long visit to Jordan and left for home. The team had held talks with the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) on bilateral cooperation in training and power distribution and toured a number of JEA installations. Talks between the two sides centered on the prospect of exchanging expertise and information in power-related fields. According to the head of the Saudi team, a draft agreement has been reached between the two sides on the cooperation of this nature and the official signing of the accord will take place later. (Petra)

CARDIAC DISEASES: Minister of Health and Social Development Zuhair Malhas Monday chaired a meeting for the Higher Committee for Protection Against Cardiac Diseases. The meeting decided to adopt a national programme for the protection against cardiac diseases and to draw up a programme for holding studies and gathering information. The meeting also decided to hold a local seminar, which will include all concerned parties to study and endorse the national programme. (Petra)

PAINTINGS EXHIBITION: An exhibition of paintings and etchings inspired by Arabo-Islamic calligraphy and design opens at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 21 at the Scientific Cultural Centre at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. The works are exhibited by Syrian artist Khairat Al Saleh and Lebanese artist Yola Nami. (J.T.)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- A book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- An art exhibition by Jordanian artists Sanaa Bourini and Abir Abu Jada at Alla Art Gallery.
- An art exhibition entitled "The Blue Rider" at the Goethe Institute.
- A photographic exhibition entitled "Amman Today" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

- A lecture on "The German Mission in Munich" by Dr. Gunther Knerr at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.

Experts find need for changes in law to absorb tribal norms

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-day seminar on tribal norms and traditions in the badia region of Jordan ended Monday with a call for amendment of laws in order to incorporate provisions that take into consideration tribal norms, which are based on Islamic law (Sharia), especially in relation to killings and immoral behaviour.

The call came in a 16-point recommendation issued at the conclusion of the seminar in which judges, tribal personalities, lawyers, sociologists and other concerned individuals took part.

A total of 39 working papers were reviewed by the participants dealing with killings, immoral behaviour and arbitration within the tribal community.

The participants called for the documentation of tribal norms and for developing tribal arbitration laws so as to cope with economic and social developments in the Kingdom. The participants recommended a field study to be conducted into tribal traditions and laws in various areas of Jordan to define similarities and differences between

them and Jordan's civil and Islamic laws.

Another recommendation urged the government to upgrade the level of social services and educational and health projects in the badia region.

They also called on the government to enact a law that would prevent the imposition of dual penalties on a person by both the tribal and civil courts.

The participants urged tribes in Jordan to eliminate bad social habits among young men in the badia region.

Marka meeting reviews progress

AMMAN (J.T.) — Economic, social, political and scientific developments in Jordan were reviewed at a seminar held at the Hay Haman Community Centre in Marka, East of Amman, Monday as part of the country's ongoing celebrations of the King's 54th birthday.

Speakers dealt with different topics related to development in the Kingdom and the role King Hussein played in reflecting Jordan's positive image abroad.

Celebrations marking the King's birthday continued in other parts of the Kingdom.

West German Ambassador to Jordan Herwig Bartels delivered a lecture entitled "The Anatolian prayer rug" at Yarmouk University in Irbid. He focused his lecture on the discovery of a large collection of such rugs used in different Islamic periods. Bartels said the rug "were of a special

colour and shape used in urban, badia and rural regions of the Islamic World." The ambassador also presented a slide show featuring different shapes and forms of these rugs.

In Irbid, a rally was held and festivities were organised at Yarmouk University. Several well-known personalities from the Irbid region delivered speeches. The event included folklore performances.

Tehran rejects demand

(Continued from page 1)

"We have no problem with the Egyptian nation because its people are Muslims and well-cultured," IRNA quoted Velayati as saying.

In August, Iran "for humanitarian reasons" released eight Somali captives in the war. Hndreds of Arab volunteers fought alongside Iraqis during the war.

The United Nations and other independent organisations estimate both Iran and Iraq to be holding more than 100,000 POWs. It is not known how many of the prisoners are non-Iraqi, but an estimated 13,000 to 200,000 are believed to be Egyptians, according to Egyptian newspaper accounts.

The fate of the prisoners is linked with the deadlocked peace talks.

Conference in Iran

An international conference on the "Persian Gulf" opened in Tehran Monday, with Velayati assuring participants that "Iran has no territorial ambitions," the IRNA reported.

The agency quoted Velayati as stressing that security in the Gulf should be maintained by regional countries.

The conference, with the participation of 400 experts and researchers from Iran as well as Middle Eastern, European and other countries, will be discussing many Gulf-related issues.

Among the countries whose nationals are participating are Pakistan, Bangladesh, Canada, the United States, Britain, Japan, China, the Philippine, France, India, Syria and Turkey.

Among the Arab countries represented are Syria, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Emphasising Islam as the unifying force for the "Persian Gulf" countries, Velayati expressed hope that tension among the regional countries will be replaced by unity and cooperation.

The way you drive determines how much you spend

By Suhair Obaidat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Driving around in Amman one finds an endless variety of cars ranging from the modest Mini to the latest lines of luxurious Mercedes oozing down the city's streets, (or should it be "racing" down the city's streets?).

A driver of one of the 500-cubic centimetre engine ten-metre-long cars might find it more convenient to attach his/her car to a gas pump rather than going to the petrol station every few days.

But the driver is not totally a victim (well, there have been no reports of car purchases under duress). So we cannot put all the blame on the car. Another point is that cars' manuals inform drivers that driving habits are a major element in fuel consumption.

At a time when concerned organisations are ringing alarm bells over the depletion of oil reserves, coupled with the economic crises facing many developing countries, new methods of reducing oil consumption are being explored

and introduced to concerned authorities.

In light of the new austerity measures adopted by Jordan, the Ministry of Energy, in cooperation with the Royal Automobile Club (RAC), has invited two experts from the Automobile Association (AA) in England to benefit from their expertise in saving fuel.

The Ministry of Energy requested us to look into the matter and invite experts to give us advice," RAC General Manager Derek Ledger said. "Since we are associated with the Automobile Association in Britain, we invited two of their experts for a week's working trip to Jordan," he added.

There are two angles to reduce fuel consumption, according to the senior roadster from AA, Peter DeNayer. "First, people can buy less extravagant cars and this can be encouraged by the government by implementing tax incentives, and, second people should and can drive more economically," he said.

The two experts are mainly training driving instructors at the RAC on how to drive a car

with the least possible fuel consumption. "We have equipped a car with a fuel-flow metre to measure the amount of fuel exhausted and asked the instructors to take a certain route, once driving gently and then hard," Roadster coordinator Barry Francis explained.

According to Francis, fuel consumption dropped by 30 per cent when the driving style was smooth than when it was rough.

"It is more than just driving slowly, it is also how the car is prepared and whether it is running properly or not," Francis said.

It all begins in the morning when the car is first started. In most cases, as soon as a person gets into the driver's seat, he/she stamps his/her foot on the accelerator that it is almost flattened and the grumbling hoarse sound the car makes is not only noisy but very expensive too.

"Heating a still car consumes much more fuel than is obvious and in the first kilometre the car uses double the amount of fuel it does when it is warm," DeNayer explained.

Moreover, Francis says, a

driver can decrease fuel consumption, especially in the morning, if the car is in a position to move straight ahead without having to manoeuvre around, "because this too is another element in the increase of fuel consumption," he said.

Greater reliance on brakes and less on gear shifting, is another factor which increases fuel consumption, according to the two experts. "People should drive more gently in the sense that they anticipate the changing of the traffic lights so as to slow down gradually by shifting the gear and avoiding the use of brakes as often as possible," DeNayer said.

Acceleration should be achieved gradually and if people stay within the speed limits "they will definitely cut down on fuel consumption," Francis said.

The decision to ban the import of diesel cars into Jordan was wise at the time but today technology has taken major strides and "has nearly eliminated the high percentage of pollution these cars caused."

"In Europe, we now use more diesel-operated cars than

petrol ones because they consume 25 per cent less fuel," Francis said.

Cars with automatic transmission, though very convenient, have a very obvious side-effect: "Their fuel consumption is 10 to 15 per cent more than in standard cars," DeNayer said. Francis and DeNayer compliment Jordanian drivers on their driving habits and expect awareness of new driving methods to spread quickly and efficiently. "They seem to be keen on learning our way of driving which can save them fuel," DeNayer noted.

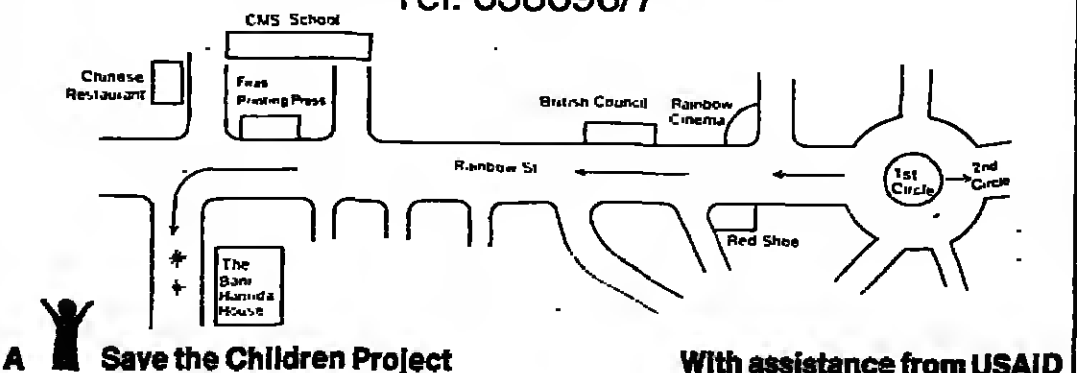
This can be achieved through newspapers, television and other media means. "It is obviously the government's job and it seems they are willing to carry it through," Francis said.

For its part, the RAC will be arranging special short training courses for those interested and their instructors will pass on what they learned on to other instructors, "thus forming an efficient way of spreading the new method to the biggest number of drivers possible," Ledger said.

ANNOUNCING

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Director General:

DR. RADI AL WAQFI

Editor-in-Chief:

DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:

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University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

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Time to help Lebanon

THE presentation of the credentials of the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, John McCarthy, to President Rene Muawad Sunday is a clear signal to General Michel Aoun that Washington recognises the government of President Muawad as the only legitimate government in Lebanon. Of course, General Aoun must be fully aware by now of the well-established international position on the developments in his country and the firm international recognition of the new government of President Muawad who was duly elected by the Lebanese parliament.

It must have dawned on Aoun by now that there is not a single nation in the world that recognises his government and that the process of containing his rebellion is getting stronger by the day. The few rebel rousers who still stand by him and defy the will of the international community cannot continue to do so for long. It would be much more honourable for him and his supporters to accept the voice of reason and begin to reconcile themselves with the new realities of history in Lebanon.

In this vein, the other big powers are invited to show solidarity with the new Lebanese government by openly offering material and political support to the new Lebanese order. This is the time to translate the sentiments of the international community into deeds by extending monetary and economic aid to Lebanon on a scale that would leave a real impression on Aoun and his underlings. The Arab countries should take the lead in such an endeavour by establishing an Arab fund for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Lebanon. The era of pious expressions is now over and time is ripe to begin the "Marshall plan" often talked about for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon by an Arab initiative. The U.N. system should likewise pitch in to help; there are many fora and possibilities available to the U.N. to do just that.

Needless to say the strengthening of the new government of President Muawad fiscally and economically is the surest and fastest way to strangle the opposition to it. And this very period of readjustment in Lebanon is the time to begin this process of aiding Lebanon in the most meaningful way possible. President Muawad is already bearing heavy responsibilities to reconstruct his torn country and now he needs all the help he can get.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday commented on the situation between Iraq and Iran in the light of the recent tension over the alleged mistreatment of Egyptian workers in Iraq. The paper praised the leadership of the two countries for taking speedy measures to contain the issue and to minimise any adverse effects. Through a joint committee the two countries are handling this problem with wisdom so that all concerned parties will come out satisfied and their interests safeguarded, the paper noted. Despite enemy plots and regardless of the conspiracies by forces hostile to the Arab Nation, the two countries are patching up any little difference they might have and are wisely handling this issue, said the paper. It said that one can only feel proud of the way Baghdad and Cairo are cooperating to solve any outstanding issues at the highest level, and with responsibility and insight, thus reflecting a true image of solidarity in times of danger. The paper said that any sabotage activity directed against any member of the Arab Cooperation Council can only come from the enemies of the Arab Nation and therefore, any problem should be settled immediately and speedily to abort any conspiracies and to foil all hostile attempts directed against the Arab Nation.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily calls on the Arab Nation to adopt a unified stand in the face of the Arab-Israeli conflict and its recent developments. Mahmoud Rnawi says that Washington and the Israeli government are currently exercising heavy pressure on the Arab side aimed at causing splits among their ranks and weakening their position with regard to the Middle East question. These pressures are aimed at keeping Arab states confronting Israel busy with side issues forgetting about Israel's occupation of Palestinian land. In the course of exercising these pressures, the writer notes, the United States has been attempting to impose the Camp David accord on the Arabs through the James Baker plan and has also been intent on keeping the Europeans out of the arena so that Israel can impose its will on the Arab Nation. The Arab countries ought now to fully back the PLO and the Palestinian people now waging an uprising against Israeli occupation; and they ought to launch a diplomatic offensive worldwide to expose Israel's atrocities and win backing from the world community, the writer continues. He notes that any weakening of the Palestinian stand is bound to have an adverse effect on the Arab Nation and its position, and could pave the way for Israeli atrocities to continue unhindered. As long as the Arabs are incapable of taking the military option, the writer adds, it is incumbent on them at least employ the economic and diplomatic weapons to achieve their end.

Al Dastour daily described King Hussein's honouring of intellectuals as an embodiment of the monarch's keenness on promoting the cultural movement in Jordan. It said that writers and intellectuals in the Third World are normally neglected and their work is not promoted by any means to encourage further production. This attitude has led to a brain drain or an emigration of writers to nations which really appreciate art and literature, the paper noted. It said by honouring the writers and intellectuals of Jordan, King Hussein is reversing this trend, and by openly praising their work, he is practically encouraging them to increase their work and produce more literary work for the rising generations. Any respect for the Jordanian writers is a source of pride for Jordan and its people, said the paper. There is no doubt, it added, that the King's noble gesture would invite more activity on the part of the writers and intellectuals of this country.

By John V. Whitbeck

AFTER 17 months of the intifada Prime Minister Shamir proposed Palestinian elections to choose representatives to talk to Israel about limited autonomy under continuing Israeli rule, something the Palestinians have made clear they do not want. Then attention shifted to finding a delegation of Palestinians willing to talk to Israel about implementing what the Palestinians don't want.

As this search, not surprisingly, proved unfruitful, the United States proposed negotiations among Americans, Egyptians and Israelis to discuss the formation of a delegation of Palestinians to talk to Israel about organised elections to choose representatives to talk to Israel about implementing what Palestinians don't want. Mr. Shamir has accused the United States of risking a "confrontation" with Israel by making such an audacious proposal.

People are dying every day. If the situation were not so tragic, this steady procedural retreat from any effort to address the substance of the problem and potential solutions to it would be laughable. Potential solutions do exist.

Contrary to common wisdom, sharing the Holy Land is not a zero-sum game, in which any development advantageous to one side must be disadvantageous to the other. One can envisage a society in which, by severing political and voting rights from economic and social rights in a negotiated settlement, both the legitimate national aspirations of Palestinians and the legitimate security interests of Israelis could be simultaneously satisfied. The non-negotiable minimum for both Israelis and Palestinians is their own self-determination as peoples and nations, that they can have a state of their own in the land that both love and that never again will anyone else govern them.

Two states, one Holy Land

This is not impossible. Palestine could be a single economic and social unit encompassing two sovereign states and Jerusalem, which would form an undivided part of both states, be the capital of both states and be administered by an autonomous, elected municipal council.

All current residents of the Holy Land could be given the choice of Israeli or Palestinian nationality, thus determining

which state's elections they would vote in and which state's passport they would carry. Borders would have to be drawn on maps but would not have to exist on the ground. The free, non-discriminatory movement of people and products within the country could be a fundamental principle subject only to one major exception: to ensure that each state would always maintain its national character, the right of residence in each state could be limited to that state's citizens, to citizens of the other state residing there on an agreed future date and to their descendants.

As an essential counterpart to the absence of border controls within the Holy Land, Israel could retain the right to participate in immigration controls at the frontiers of the Palestinian state. Visitors restricted to the Palestinian state and found in Israel could face severe penalties. To ease Israeli security concerns, the Palestinian state could be fully demilitarised, with only local police forces and United Nations peace-keeping forces allowed to bear arms. The settlement agreement could be guaranteed by the United Nations and relevant states, with international tribunals to arbitrate disputes regarding compliance with its terms.

The problem of Jerusalem

The status of Jerusalem poses the toughest problem for any settlement plan, causing many to assume that no settlement acceptable to both sides can ever be reached. When the U.N. General Assembly adopted Resolution 181 in 1947, it addressed the problem by suggesting an international status for Jerusalem, with neither the Jewish nor the Arab state to have sovereignty over the city. Yet joint undivided sovereignty, while rare, is not without precedent. In a sense, Jerusalem can be viewed as a cake which could be sliced either vertically or horizontally. Either way, the Palestinians would get half the cake, but, while Israelis could never voluntarily swallow a vertical slice, they just might be able to swallow a horizontal slice. Shared in this way, Jerusalem could be a symbol of reconciliation and hope for Jews, Muslims, Christians and the world as a whole.

For Israelis, the threat of one day living in a state with a majority of Arab voters or an inescapable and increasingly unfavourable resemblance to South Africa would be replaced by the assurance of living in a democratic state with fewer Arab voters than today. The Israelis' security

would be enhanced by assuaging, rather than continuing to aggravate, the Palestinians' grievances. By escaping from the role of oppressors and enforcers of injustice, Israel would save its soul and its dream.

For all Palestinians, human dignity would be restored. They would cease to be a people treated (and not only by Israelis) as pariahs uniquely unworthy of basic human rights. For those in exile, an internationally accepted Palestinian nationality, a Palestinian passport and a right to return, if only to visit, would have enormous significance. And if the Palestinians themselves accepted a settlement, few Arab states would continue to reject Israel. If a Palestinian flag were peacefully raised over Palestinian government offices in Jerusalem, few Arab eyes would still see Israelis through a veil of hatred.

A vision of the future

Acceptance and implementation of such a framework for peace would require a moral, spiritual and psychological transformation from both Israelis and Palestinians. Yet, given the decades of hatred, bitterness and distrust, any settlement would require such a transformation. Precisely because such a transformation

would be so difficult, it is far more likely to be achieved if both peoples can be inspired by a truly compelling vision of a new society of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect and human dignity, in which both peoples are winners, rather than if they are left to contemplate painful programmes for a new partition and an angry separation in which both peoples must regard themselves, to a considerable degree, as admitting defeat.

The issue which all who are seriously interested in peace should be addressing is certainly not who speaks for the Palestinians, as to which no one can possibly be in doubt. Rather, it is the search for a compelling vision of a society so much better than the status quo that both sides are inspired to accept in their hearts and minds that peace is both desirable and obtainable, that the Holy Land can be shared, that a winner-takes-all approach will produce only losers and that both Israelis and Palestinians must be winners or both will continue to be losers.

John V. Whitbeck is an international lawyer working in Paris. The article is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International.

Indian general elections 1989 — a scene setter

INDIA — The world's largest democracy will be going to the polls on November 22, 24 and 26 to elect a new government. It will be India's 9th general election and one in which approximately 500 million Indians are expected to vote. At the national level there have been eight general elections and at the state level over 250 elections since independence.

India has a finely woven fabric of diverse peoples, customs, races, traditions and religions. The common thread weaving the richness and variety of the Indian mosaic together is democracy. This process of democracy has encouraged free debate and a way of life in which all individuals see themselves as equal in deciding their destiny.

India has a system of universal adult franchise. So far anyone over the age of 21 years could vote. Now with the passing of the 62nd amendment to the Indian constitution the voting age has been lowered to 18 years. The whole country is divided into 3,941 provincial level or Vidhan Sabha constituencies, which are grouped together to form the 543 constituencies of the lower house of the Indian Parliament.

The Indian Parliament comprises two houses — the Lok Sabha or the lower house and the Rajya Sabha or the upper house. The Lok Sabha functions in a manner not dissimilar to the British House of Commons. The parliamentary seats, on the whole, are allotted to the states in proportion to their population. On an average seven provincial level constituencies make for one

parliamentary constituency. The parliamentary constituency roughly represents 750,000 voters.

National elections for the lower house are held every five years. India's last general election was held in December, 1984. The average voter turnout in the Indian elections has been 55 per cent, varying from a low of 45.7 per cent in 1952 to 64.1 per cent in 1984. The distinct upward trend in voter turnout indicates an increased involvement of the electorate as more and more voters understand the power of their vote.

For the parliamentary elections, candidates have to file their nomination papers with the local district collector. Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi filed his nomination papers for the 9th general elections from the Amethi constituency in Uttar Pradesh.

The parliamentary elections are contests among candidates representing various political parties and independent candidates. The "first-past-the-post" system is followed in deciding the election, in which the candidate getting the maximum number of votes in the constituency is declared elected.

A significant aspect of Indian democracy is the presence of multiple political parties. At present eight political parties are recognised by the Indian election commission as national parties. In addition to the national parties, there are a number of regional parties or state level parties. Thirty seven political parties are recognised as state level parties.

Apart from the national and state level political parties there are hundreds of independent candidates who also contest the elections. Any candidate belonging to a party that is not recognised is officially an independent candidate.

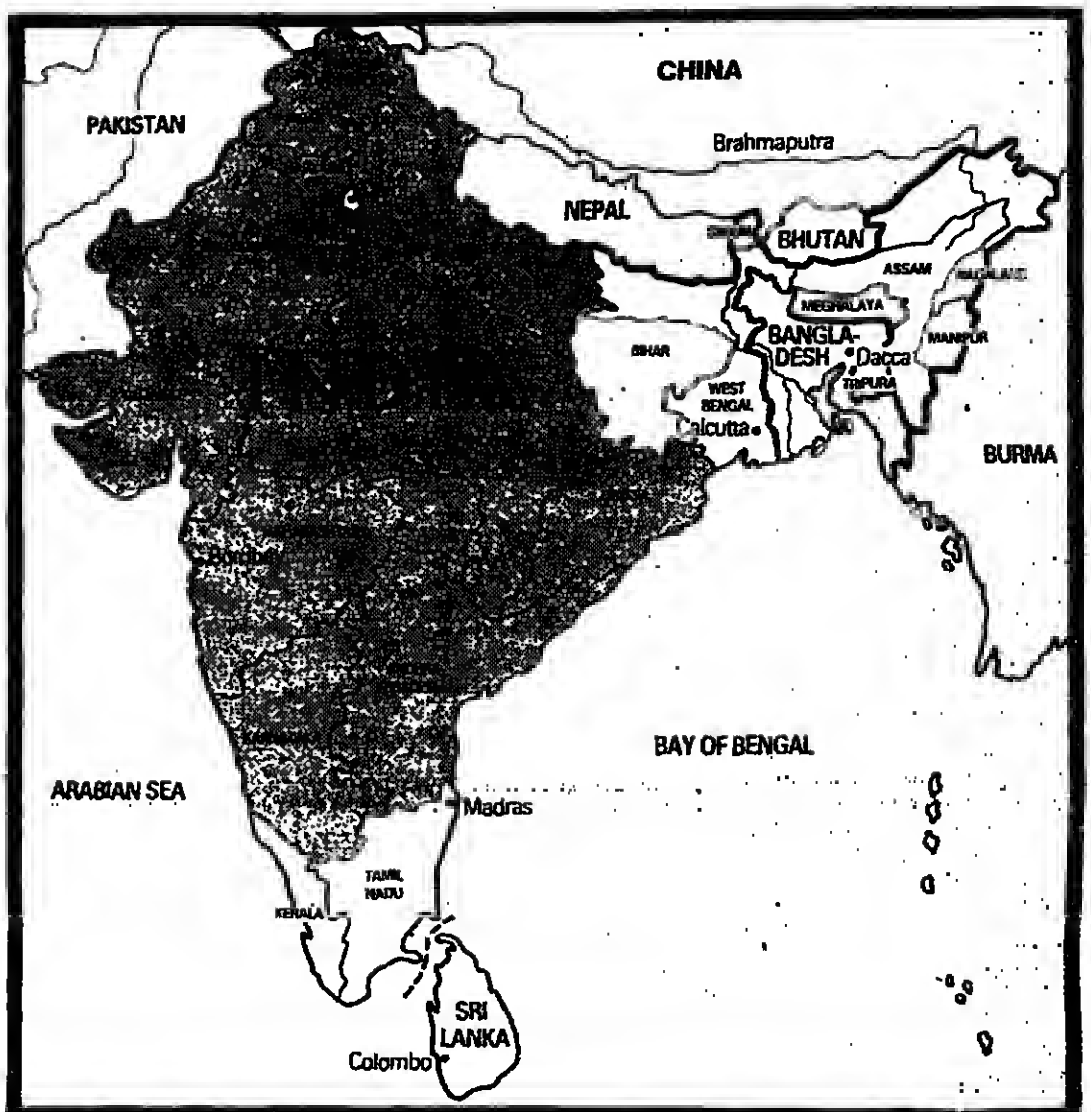
Each party has its election platform and through colourful and often vibrant campaigns parties get their messages across to the people. The process of campaigning in itself is full of life and vibrancy. Political leaders address mass public gatherings urging voters to back their party candidates.

The process is free and fair and the outcome is decided by the ballot. From campaign to ballot to results — it is a story of people selecting their own representatives.

It is interesting to note that India has over six times the number of voters as the United States. The size of the Indian electorate alone is almost double the total population of the United States of America.

It is noteworthy that over 5,500 candidates filed their nominations for the 9th parliamentary elections. The story of the election process in India is a story not only of conducting the world's biggest election but also one of diverse people united by a steadfast belief in the power of the ballot.

The elections are conducted by the Election Commission which is an autonomous institution. The Election Commission registers the political parties and is responsible for the logistics of conducting the world's biggest election besides ensuring that they are free and fair.



ducting the world's biggest election besides ensuring that they are free and fair.

Political parties as in many countries, are allotted symbols so that voters can identify them in the secrecy of the booth. For the general elections on November 22, 24 and 26 the eight national political

parties have been allotted eight different symbols.

As India readies itself for its 9th general elections, a sense of commitment to its political institutions prevails. Democracy in the world's second most populous nation is a way of life and a system which is unique. It is a

system which has ensured stability and economic progress while upholding the principles of social justice, freedom of speech and expression and a determined faith in continuity and change on the strength of the ballot. Democracy in India has withstood the test of time — India features.

L. America looks across Pacific for development

By Richard Waddington
Reuters

SANTIAGO — Latin America, which once depended almost entirely on the United States and Europe for trade and investment, is looking increasingly to the industrial powers of the Pacific for its commercial development.

Recent investment by Australian and New Zealand companies in Chile, where Australian magnate Alan Bond holds a majority stake in the national telephone company, is seen as a sign of a new awareness of the region's potential.

Peruvian novelist and presidential hopeful Mario Vargas Llosa recently broke off campaigning to spend three weeks in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore to encourage investment in his country.

And Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has even sent his children to a Japanese school in Mexico City to underline his interest.

Faced by the threat of protectionism in the traditional markets of North America and Europe, the two regions have a common interest in boosting trade.

"There is undoubtedly a new awareness... about the potential of Latin America as the European market has become more difficult," one Santiago-based New Zealand businessman said.

Commerce across the Pacific accounts for some five per cent of Latin America's total trade, but it is rising.

For countries such as Japan,

Taiwan, South Korea, New Zealand and Australia, Latin America offers more than 400 million potential consumers, while for Latin America the Pacific basin is a new market for its exports. Brazil, which has the highest population of ethnic Japanese anywhere outside Japan, has long had a close commercial relationship with the Far East, despite facing the Atlantic.

Japan took seven per cent of Brazil's exports, worth some \$1.8 billion, over the first nine months of 1989, while other Asian countries bought about \$2.5 billion's worth of goods, more than Brazil sold to the rest of Latin America.

In recent years Mexico and Chile have both emerged as important partners, while other Pacific coast states such as Colombia are anxious for more trade and investment.

"We will open new and broader channels of communication and relations with the Pacific basin, especially with Japan, a country to which we feel joined in brotherhood by our common capacity for hard work and deep-rooted cultures," Mexico's Salinas said on taking office last December.

Japan, whose importance to Latin America has been boosted by its offer of financial support for countries seeking to buy back foreign debt, has invested some \$800 million in Mexico in the past decade.

Latin American finance ministers and economic officials, attending a symposium in Japan this month, said they hoped for

greater financial involvement in the region.

Taking advantage of Mexico's proximity to the United States, its cheap labour and wages waiving import duties on raw materials, Japan has built a string of plants to assemble electronic goods and car parts in the border area.

Japanese companies have also expressed interest in investing in Mexico's petrochemical industry. Nevertheless, it is in Chile that this new trans-Pacific trade and investment has had the greatest impact.

Chile's export-orientated economic policies have encouraged the country's businessmen to go in search of new markets, and its fast-growing economy and stable investment rules have proved increasingly attractive to foreign companies.

While Peru and Colombia are racked by political and drug-related violence, Chile appears to be moving peacefully towards a transition to democratic rule with elections next month.

Over the past five years commerce between Chile and the Pacific basin has risen 137 per cent, compared with an 87 per cent increase in Chile's trade overall.

Imports from Japan doubled to \$345 million in the first half of 1989 compared with the same period last year.

At the same time, Chile's exports — comprising mainly fish, fruit and copper — to its most important Pacific trading partner were up 30 per cent at \$25 million.

Ecological threats give Greek Greens first victory

By Dina Kyriakidou
Reuters

ATHENS — Greek Greens, sitting pretty in their first-ever seat in parliament, want to ban cars in Athens, scrap Greece's bid to host the 1996 Olympics and freeze tourist development on celebrated holiday islands.

Uniting concerned groups for the first time under a single banner, the Green party capitalised on newborn public anxiety over the array of threats to the environment — from chemical waste to the hordes of north European tourists descending for island holidays.

Voters went to the polls in early November while emergency measures were in force because of heavy smog, and sent Marina Thizi and her ecologists-alternatives party to parliament to sit next to the traditional politicians.

"The public has become sensitive to environmental issues in all urban centres and our groups have a 15-year history all over the country," said Thizi, who won her seat in the heavily polluted capital.

Her party, formed in September by dozens of ecological groups and some environmental-minded marginal leftists, rejects the idea of a leader and all decisions are put to the vote at a national convention.

Three women, who topped the poll on the Green ticket, will occupy the parliamentary seat in annual rotation. "We don't like

deputies who are isolated within the political game, away from society," explained party official Giorgos Karabelias.

Under the constitution, each can resign at the end of a year and the party can name her replacement.

The Greens' demands are straightforward enough: They want to abandon the nationally-favoured bid to host the centennial summer Olympics in 1996 because the mass building programme needed to get the city ready would cause even greater environmental chaos in Athens. They argue that development for the games is a classic case of sacrificing the interests of many Greeks to profits for a few from a single-summer tourist boom.

But the ecologists' approach to politics has bewildered the big parties. With 0.6 per cent of the vote, Greek Green was the one seat that could have given the Socialists and Communists an absolute majority in the 300-seat parliament and the chance to form a coalition government after inconclusive elections.

But they refused to negotiate for a place in a coalition government although, Karabelias said wryly, "we were offered the environment ministry."

They turned it down saying they wanted no part in backstage wheeling and dealing, and that former Socialist Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu's eight-year record on the environment was

poor. When Papandreu, renowned for his persuasive powers, asked to meet the ecologists they declined.

The Greens seem set on being the thorn in the side of the big parties with such unorthodox proposals as using two per cent of the state budget to reforest burnt areas and banning further tourist development on such popular islands as Corfu and Rhodes.

Some 90 per cent of revenue on islands like these now comes from tourism and the once agricultural productive islands have become net importers of food. The Greens want tourist development controlled.

Tourists from northern Europe, where Green movements have flourished for years, tend to crowd beaches which develop to accommodate them with no respect for the environment, ecologist Dimitris Papaioannou said.

On the Ionian island of Zakynthos endangered Mediterranean sea turtles have almost lost their nesting grounds to rampant tourist development.

The lush island of Spetsis, southwest of Athens, must import water daily in summer months because of the tourist influx. "Most tourists fly to a certain place, storm the beaches and don't even notice a pretty village nearby all they want is to soak in the sun and the sea," Papaioannou said.

For Al Bandak music is weapon against Israel

By Issam Hamza
Reuter

DAMASCUS — When Riad Al Bandak's family asked him to join the Palestinian resistance against Israel he took up the fight with music instead of arms.

More than 40 years later he is still fighting the Jewish state through his stirring anthems and songs.

"All my brothers are fighters. But I hate wars and weapons and I want to defend my cause with music," Bandak, one of the Arab World's best known composers, said in Syria where he now lives.

"When Britain said it would leave Palestine by 1948, attempts began to form popular resistance groups against the Zionists. My mother told me that my father wanted me to join one of the military training groups along with my brothers. I refused and took up a lute instead of a gun," he added.

The trials and tribulations of the Palestinians are the theme of his grandest work, a 90-minute epic that he wrote in secret over the past 30 years.

The work entitled "From Palestine to Tishreec (October)," refers to the 1973 October war against Israel in

which the Arabs initially made significant territorial advances in the Sinai Peninsula and the Golan Heights.

Bandak finished the work last year and conducted a 70-member orchestra in Damascus in a performance broadcast live on television in many Arab countries.

Bandak said music was important to keep up people's spirits in both war and peace.

"We need to tell the world that we have a just cause, that we are people who should return to their homes and have their own state," he said. "Music could convey this message."

Bandak, 63, said he left his own home in Bethlehem as a young man when Israel was created in 1948.

He lived at different times in Cairo, Beirut and Damascus before settling in the Syrian capital nearly 13 years ago.

"As a Palestinian I spent my life as a refugee. The epic illustrated the lives of all Palestinians who were deprived of their homes," he said.

The rhythmic work, the longest known composition in the traditional Arab style, uses quarter notes to great effect to illustrate sadness, joy and glory.

Bandak said his love of music began in 1936 when he was 10, but was stifled by an upbringing that showed scant respect for art.

His father Issa, the mayor of Bethlehem and a leading national figure in Palestine during the British mandate, forbade him to take a job as a singer with a radio station and he studied music in secret at a French-run college.

But when in 1938 Palestine's British rulers arrested his father and exiled him to Greece, Bandak was free to do as he pleased.

"That was salvation day for me. It allowed me to devote myself to music and to join Palestine Radio until 1946," he said.

His father returned to Bethlehem from exile in 1947 and was re-elected as mayor despite Britain's opposition.

He once again put pressure on his son to join the resistance against the Israelis, which led Bandak to leave home and begin his career as a conductor and composer.

He first made a name for himself in Damascus by writing a song for Mary Joubran, a well-known singer. Later he discovered Fayza Ahmed, who went on to become a star, and wrote for many other popular singers.



Theories and more theories

By Louise Chunn

TRY THIS for a conspiracy theory. Scientists' fear of angry feminists has led them to hide evidence proving the physiological differences between the brains of men and women. If the truth were known, well-meaning researchers are supposed to have believed, misogynists would have a field day — and women would be bounced back to the kitchen.

This, say the authors of Brain Sex: The Real Difference Between Men & Women, is why — in spite of reams of indisputable research — they are the first to publicise what the research scientists and geneticists have known for years: that the physical make-up of the brain and the effect of the male hormone testosterone dictate the different behaviour and particular strengths and weaknesses of each sex.

Artificial intelligence is not going to create a human brain in silicon by the end of the 20th century. That dubious achievement may lie another century off. But spinoffs will be everywhere, such as an "agent" that scans data to assemble an electronic newspaper tailored to its boss's interests.

The question will remain of how far computers can be trusted. It used to be said that computers do only what people tell them to do, but that is no longer the case.

The European-built Airbus A320, which will fly and land itself, is a safe plane that depends on computers for its safety. Pilots can override the automatic pilot, but the computer will prevent any extreme manoeuvre that could damage the plane. Some veteran pilots worry the limitation could prevent them from taking heroic action to save lives. Others say the automatic pilot is so good that pilots would be unprepared if it ever malfunctioned.

In a serious accident at a modern nuclear power plant, dozens of red lights can flash simultaneously indicating problems.

to sound, smell, taste and touch. Girls learn to use language earlier than boys and go on to process sensory and verbal information faster.

Six weeks into the development of a foetus, the brain is already being "wired up" male or female. But language and gender do not always correspond and some of the book's most interesting work concerns the cases of female children treated with male hormones and vice versa. The book also contains a short multiple choice test to find the sex of your brain; evidence of "intuition" and a memory for tunes is labelled female; being able to reverse into a tight parking space and ignore irritating background noise is male.

"It should already be obvious that this book is not destined for best-selling status in the women-only bookshops of this world. It denies the power of conditioning in moulding the destiny of women, laying the blame for the shortage of women in powerful, prestigious positions on their 'different' brains."

But it's Moir and Jessel's theories on sex equality that will be of most interest — and cause the greatest debate. "The argument about the existence of brainsex differences has been won," they say, even adding, "It now begins to seem a little strange that the battle ever had to be fought at all." And as many mothers of both a male and a female baby will testify (however unwillingly), male and female babies do behave differently. BrainSex cites the results of testing on one-week-old baby girls

who could distinguish between the sound of an infant's cry and general noise played at the same volume. Boy babies could not.

Moir and Jessel appear to believe that the feminist movement has done more harm than good to its cause. "Ignorance, or denial, of difference has actually made the world a worse place for women," they say. Quoting American anthropologist Professor Lionel Tiger, they argue that the universal acceptance that males and females are equal has led to greater inequality. "It is women who must accommodate themselves and they are being asked to compete with men in male-orientated institutions. The net result of this is their continued deprivation and a recently increased resentment and anxiety."

Anti-sexist teaching — where children are taught that men and women are equally able — is, they say, "telling lies in the name of education." Far better, say Moir and Jessel, to acknowledge the difference and attempt to redress the biological imbalance. So the teaching of maths and engineering could be angled to the female brain, perhaps by using a more verbal, less symbolic system.

There is evidence that boys suffer, when they first start school, in comparison with the superior reading and writing ability of girls. They eventually catch up because, say the authors, "their parents insist that they do so, and worry if these skills are not acquired at an early age."

Girls' difficulties with spatial-mechanical relationships are somehow acceptable, so they are not pushed to overcome them. It may be girls' brains that are to blame for their not understanding maths, but the reaction of their parents sure looks like conditioning to me — *The Guardian*.

Princely blessings and Indian elections

By Malcolm Davidson
Reuter

JAIPUR, India — Strictly speaking, the Congress Party candidate for the Indian elections in Jaipur is plain Bhawani Singh. To everybody in Jaipur he is the maharaja.

The former ruler of Jaipur and decorated war hero is entering politics for the first time and joining at least 30 other princes and princesses contesting seats in the elections that begin next week.

India's 600 ruling families legally lost their power over the lives of millions of their countrymen on independence from Britain in 1947. They lost their remaining privileges in 1972.

But the hundreds of ordinary people stooping to touch the feet of Bhawani Singh's wife, the maharani, in a traditional gesture of respect at her morning audience show the hold the former rulers still exert in republican India.

"We have no powers but we still have the love and affection of the people," said Bhawani Singh, nicknamed bubbles for the vast quantities of champagne consumed to celebrate his birth as heir to the House of Jaipur.

Their main palace may have been turned into a luxury hotel, but the maharajas still dominate Jaipur, a major tourist point and capital of the north Indian state of Rajasthan.

The family still lives in the 250-year-old city palace where the maharani, Padmini Devi, is encouraging women from the bottom of India's social heap to throw her daily audience. The poorest get small gifts.

Bhawani Singh is standing for Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party, but the opposition parties too are deploying their princely supporters for this month's national elections.

Opposition leader Vishwanath Pratap Singh is himself the former maharaja of Mandla and is universally known as Raja Sahib, a title he does nothing to discourage.

Political analyst Barbani Sengupta said the former princely

families were increasingly trying to join the mainstream and using their residual clout and popularity to get elected.

"I do not think that any of them will ever become prime minister or even a state chief minister," he said. "But there is an enormous earnestness to get into politics. It is the biggest business in the country and there is still a fascination for power."

Politics is sometimes splitting the families of the former maharajas, nawabs and nizams.

Across the country, in the central Indian city of Gwalior, lives former Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia, who is Gandhi's railway minister.

His mother, Vijaya Raje Scindia, is a stalwart of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party along with his sister Vasundhara Raje Scindia. Both are standing as BJP candidates.

In Jaipur, Bhawani Singh is annoyed that his stepmother has chosen not only to campaign for the Hindu revivalist BJP but has taken her campaign directly onto the streets against him.

He said in an interview it would have been much more dignified if Gayatri Devi had gone elsewhere to campaign.

Devi, the late maharaja's third wife and once known as one of the world's best dressed women, woo the Jaipur seat for the opposition three times but gave up active politics in 1977.

Singh's major opponent, the BJP's Girdhari Lal Bhargava, is delighted he has royal support but discounts the importance of the maharaja's position.

"He has no touch with the people," Bhargava said. "Even if he was successful he couldn't serve the people of Jaipur city who would never be able to see him."

In one public appearance recently, 59-year-old Bhawani Singh looked uneasy being buffeted in the streets by hundreds of chanting supporters.

He readily acknowledges he is a political novice, happier on the polo field or in the army mess than on the campaign trail.

Mubarak advises PLO

(Continued from page 1)
Israel would examine any response to Baker's proposal from Egypt, but added that his country would ignore the views of the PLO.

"We are not negotiating at all with the PLO and it doesn't affect us what they ask for from the United States," Shamir said.

"We are not talking about negotiations with the PLO, but about talks with Arabs, residents of the occupied territories," Shamir said.

In a separate interview from New York with Isaac Radio, Shamir said: "From our point of view, we are closer (to Israeli-Palestinian talks). There are the U.S. administration's proposals, the answer of the Israeli government, and we can start the implementation. What delays it is the lack of response from the Arab side."

"We are still waiting for it. If

such an answer does not come soon it would become clear who delays the implementation of the 'peace' initiative," he added.

Shamir said that during his Washington visit, he found the Bush administration "in general, quite pleased with our response. They are working on it but they are postponing the final formulation till they receive an answer from the opposite side."

Israel accepted the Baker plan two weeks ago, but attached requests for U.S. assurances that the PLO be excluded from negotiations and that the talks be limited to the Israeli election plan.

"The U.S. administration has no questions about this. There's the Israeli response, which includes an agreement to the proposals of the secretary of state and certain suppositions, and they both are two parts of the same answer," Shamir said.

The computers of tomorrow

By Peter Coy
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The personal computer of the 1990s will be a blend of 3-D television and quadraphonic stereo, with the hand controls of a video game machine and more speed than the car-sized mainframes of the 1980s.

Silicon chips burning through a billion instructions a second will be able to surround the user with the sights and sounds of an early morning in Paris or an erupting Hawaiian volcano.

"Multimedia" computers will rival television for attention.

A computer is the most patient teacher, which is why many students blossom when they practice math or spelling on it. Computers of the '90s will simulate a four-lane highway for driver's education classes or a flask of hydrochloric acid for chemistry — perhaps rivaling television for young people's attention.

"You could have a tremendous explosion of human knowledge over the next decade. This could not only accelerate people's learning process but make a boatload of money," said William Zachmann, president of Canopus Research in Duxbury, Massachusetts.

"Infotainment" and other trends in computers are being propelled by a ceaseless decline in the price of computing power, a decline that opens up previously unimaginable possibilities.

Cheaper chips will and smart to things people use every day, from toasters to the telephone system. They will become so common that people will stop remarking on them, the way people stopped talking about "transistor" radios once all radios had transistors.

In the 1990s, computers will extend the human reach in every field from weather forecasting to sex therapy.

Here is some of what we can expect in the 1990s:

— Machine translation of language will help put Americans in touch with the rest of the world. Computers already can crudely translate printed material, and automatic translation of live speech is on the way. But beware: One system in Europe translated the French "bons avions" (we were having) as "U.S. airplanes."

— Telebots with human guidance will clean up crippled nuclear reactors and scour sclerotic arteries. Unlike their crude ancestors, they will be able to go about their work without moment-to-moment instructions. One unnerving possibility is military robots — "telegadiators" — that would lower the threshold of war by removing people from the battle scene.

— Artificial intelligence is not going to create a human brain in silicon by the end of the 20th century. That dubious achievement may lie another century off. But spinoffs will be everywhere, such as an "agent" that scans data to assemble an electronic newspaper tailored to its boss's interests.

The question will remain of how far computers can be trusted. It used to be said that computers do only what people tell them to do, but that is no longer the case.

The European-built Airbus A320, which will fly and land itself, is a safe plane that depends on computers for its safety.

Pilots can override the automatic pilot, but the computer will prevent any extreme manoeuvre that could damage the plane. Some veteran pilots worry the limitation could prevent them from taking heroic action to save lives. Others say the automatic pilot is so good that pilots would be unprepared if it ever malfunctioned.

In a serious accident at a modern nuclear power plant, dozens of red lights can flash simultaneously indicating problems.

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Promising gas find brightens Jordan's drive

By Alistair Lyon
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan is inviting foreign firms to explore for oil and gas near the Iraqi border where drillers made a promising gas find last month.

"There are tremendously optimistic signs," said Peter Sherrington, the Amman-based operations director of state-owned Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation (PCIAIC). "We are extremely hopeful of the area producing oil as well as gas," he told Reuters Monday.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said last month the gas find was encouraging, but officials have not given details.

In October, PCIAIC extended by two years a technical assistance agreement with Jordan's Natural Resources Authority (NRA), raising its total value to 47 million Canadian dollars (\$40 million).

NRA Director-General Kamal Jreissat and Arne Nielson, former president of Mobil Oil Canada, are heading a team to promote Jordan's hydrocarbon prospects in Houston, Texas, on Dec. 4 and in Calgary, Canada, on Dec. 7.

He hoped to persuade companies to sign production-sharing agreements in a concession area of 14,000 square kilometers near Rishah in eastern Jordan.

Sherrington said a well dug there in August had shown that a field already producing 20 million cubic feet (600,000 cubic metres) a day from two wells was bigger than previously thought.

Rishah 16 is not fully evaluated, but it gives us cause to anticipate that the reserves figure will be significantly increased," he said.

Estimates based on the two producing wells put Rishah gas reserves at 0.26 trillion cubic feet (7.8 million cubic metres).

The wells, Rishah 3 and 6, fuel a power station commissioned at Rishah in May. The government plans to add two more 30 megawatt gas turbines to the two already installed there.

Sherrington said confirmation of Rishah's potential might make it economically feasible to move the electricity generators closer to Amman, substitute gas for oil as fuel for the Zarqa refinery, or use gas for domestic consumption and industry.

He said Rishah gas, found at a depth of about 2,600 metres was "sweet", or free of sulphur dioxide. The area posed some drilling problems, but was readily accessible.

"It's ideal pipeline country," he added.

PCIAIC has shot about one third of the 9,000-kilometre, of seismic lines in the Rishah area, with the NRA shooting the rest. The Canadian group will concentrate for the next two years on processing data already gathered and providing drilling advice.

Three international oil companies signed production-sharing agreements with Jordan in 1986 and 1987.

Dallas-based Hunt Oil Company and Petrofina of Belgium are still operating in the country but Houston-based Amoco pulled out on Sept. 1 after drilling two wells without finding oil.

Jordan, Egypt and Iraq to hold talks on maritime operations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The general assembly of the Arab Maritime Bridge Company (AMBC) will hold a meeting in Cairo Thursday to review operations along the Aqaba-Nuweibeh land-sea route and to chart plans for development and expansion.

The meeting, which will be attended by transport ministers from Egypt, Jordan and Iraq which together own and operate the company is also expected to endorse a budget for the coming year and approve the company's 1990 investments and other activities, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The AMBC, which was established in 1987, has been transporting goods, passengers and vehicles both ways to Egypt and Jordan through a small fleet of ferry boats, connecting between Aqaba in Jordan and Nuweibeh in Sinai, Egypt.

The director of the Nuweibeh office on the Egyptian side said lately that the ferry boats are to be increased to cope with the growing demand on transportation along the route.

He was quoted as saying that there will be three instead of two ferry boats operating on a daily basis and the number of employees at the customs offices will be doubled to meet the expected increase in the volume of goods.

The director reported that the first half of 1989 witnessed an increase of 40 per cent in the number of tourists travelling both ways in contrast with the number of travellers in the same period of last year.

The AMBC board of directors has announced that \$2.1 million in profits were made from the company's operations in 1988.

In another shipping activity, Jordan is taking part in a three-day meeting by the Arab Federation of Shipping (AFS) which opened in Cairo Monday by Egyptian Transport and Communications Minister Suleiman Mitwalli.

Delegates from 16 Arab countries will review ways of exploiting their own maritime fleets in transporting goods and passengers and boosting trade among the Arab countries. The delegates will also study means to introduce modern technology to promote such services.

Addressing the opening session, Mitwalli said that the fleets should promote economic integration among Arab countries whose shores extend from the Atlantic Ocean in the West to the Indian Ocean in the East.

The minister urged Arab states to give priority to Arab fleets in maritime operations in a bid to promote the (AFS) stand on the one hand and to support Arab economy in general.

The (AFS) Secretary-General Abdul Qader Hilal told the meeting the federation aims to coordinate maritime transport at all levels and to bolster the Arab countries' links with the outside world.

According to Hilal, the federation seeks to unify Arab countries' laws and regulations concerning maritime transport and to encourage AFS members to step up cooperation among themselves and with the Council of Arab Economic Unity.

Finland reschedules Jordan's \$1.2 m debt

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has rescheduled repayment of debt amounting to 5,359,883 Finnish marks (equivalent to \$1,253,187) to Finland, according to an agreement signed Monday between the Jordanian and the Finnish governments at the Ministry of Finance.

The debt, representing loans extended by the Finnish Financing Corporation to Jordan Electricity Authority, was due for repayment during 1989 and 1990.

The sum will now be settled over ten years starting 1990 with a five-year grace period.

The agreement was signed by Finance Minister Basel Jaraneh on behalf of the Jordanian government and the Finnish ambassador in Damascus on behalf of the Finnish government.

The loans did not carry any interest and the rescheduled repayment did not include any interest neither.

Jordan-Egypt power link enters practical stage

CAIRO (J.T.) — Egypt announced Monday that a project to link the national grids of Jordan and Egypt has now entered the implementation stage and that experts are working to design and set up transformer and power stations.

Electricity and Power Minister Maher Abaza said that work on specifications for power lines and network is underway.

A 500-volt cable network will be laid across a distance of 300 kilometres between the southern regions of Jordan and Sinai, with a submarine cable of 12 kilometres in length under the Gulf of Aqaba.

On Nov. 3, Egypt and Jordan concluded a formal agreement to link their national grids through a project which is being financed by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD).

Drought shatters Syrian hopes

DAMASCUS (AP) — A drought has jolted Syria's frail economy, just as the prospect of oil income was beginning to bolster hopes of better days ahead.

Last winter, rainfall was 40 per cent below the 15-year average, cutting 1989 wheat production in half, according to the Arab Press Service, a Nicosia-based news-letter.

Syrian officials are reluctant to give details about the problem, but Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zoubeidi said recently that the drought "has afflicted the country with unfortunate consequences."

Estimating Syria's small hard currency income. Half of that had already been spent on food imports before the drought.

"They're coping with it. They may come through without serious political consequences," said a diplomat, who declined to be identified.

He said Syria would divert money from oil development to pay for wheat imports and prevent popular unrest over shortages of food and other basic goods.

The price of bread is heavily subsidised in Syria, a considerable drain on the budget, diplomats say.

But with only one-fifth of the country's wheat fields irrigated, another winter of poor rainfall would be disastrous, say Syrian and foreign experts. The critical period is December through March.

The drought also has affected irrigated crop production by diminishing the flow of the Euphrates, the main source of irrigation water as well as one-fifth of Syria's electricity.

The drought was a blow to current Syrian emphasis on agricultural development, part of a campaign for "national food security," a pervasive slogan of the ruling Baath Party.

Production increases have been achieved in recent years, particu-

larly in fruit, vegetable, sugar beet and cotton production.

Syria spends its largest amount of money to maintain its large armed forces, although figures on how much aren't available.

In civilian investments, agriculture has priority in the current five-year plan.

The drought also has dampened Syria's plans to alleviate its chronic economic problems by becoming another Middle East oil exporter this year.

Syria's other major export products are phosphates and cotton. Much of these exports are committed to the Soviet Union and Cuba in exchange for imports of arms and sugar and to repay its \$18 billion debt, three-quarters of which is owed to the Soviets.

Given a decent cereal crop, Syria planned to spend oil income to further develop agriculture, gas and oil production and ease some import restrictions for the benefit of Syrian consumers, long starved of even simple amenities such as toilet tissue.

The country achieved oil self-sufficiency earlier this year and hoped for income of more than \$500 million in 1990.

This goal was scaled back when over-production ordered by Syrian officials proved damaging to the capacity of some new wells.

Now it appears that most or all of its surplus oil income will be spent on the wheat imports.

Energy experts hold talks in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — A team of international experts began meetings in Amman Monday to discuss the effect of changes in the petroleum markets on the energy policies in the region of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

The four-day meetings will deal with means to provide guidelines for policy-makers and experts in and out of the ESCWA region as well as representatives of the national, regional, and international organisations who are interested in various activities related to petroleum so as to review the latest developments and trends in the petroleum markets.

The experts will exchange views on the effect of such changes on the petroleum exporting and importing countries in the ESCWA region, study the effect of fluctuations in petroleum prices on energy policies in the region and prepare suitable recommendations for the concerned organisations.

The opening session was attended by Ministry of Energy Undersecretary Ibrahim Badran and ESCWA Executive Secretary-General Taysir Abdul Jabbar.

Seminar on project studies ends

AMMAN (J.T.) — Delegates from nine Arab countries and a number of organisations in the Arab World Monday concluded a two-week meeting here entitled "Regional Seminar on Monitoring, Evaluation and Sustainability of Project Benefits" which was organised by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

A total of 35 experts from the participating countries who took part in the deliberations visited the northern parts of the Jordan Valley region to conduct a case study on one of the development projects there as part of their endeavours, according to a statement by the RSS at the conclusion of the final session.

The seminar, which was organised in conjunction with the Economic Development Institute at the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), sought to set guidelines for assessing projects being carried out in the Arab World and presented a good opportunity for the participants to exchange views about means to follow up the implementation of plans, according to the statement.

Dr. Daoud Jabaji, advisor to the RSS's president and chairman of the meetings said that many of the Arab World projects are still being managed by foreigners and it was time the chance be given to Arab experts to handle such responsibility.

Jabaji distributed testimonials at the closing session of the seminar which was held at the RSS premises.

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Arabs see oil demand holding prices despite disarray

ABU DHABI (R) — The big Arab petroleum exporters feel that world oil demand will be strong enough to keep a floor under prices despite the prospect of more disarray in OPEC.

Sources at Arab oil ministers' talks in Abu Dhabi Monday said it would be a surprise if a meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna next weekend reached an agreement that stopped all the leaks in its output quota system.

The authoritative Nicosia-based Middle East Economic Survey (MEES), an oil industry newsletter, said Monday that Saudi Arabia remained adamant it would not accept a lower quota to accommodate demands for bigger ones by two other Gulf states, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The two, whose positions were also said by sources here to be unchanged, are at present ignoring OPEC production accords, because a majority will not give them the quotas they want.

But the sources said the Saudis and the others appeared relaxed about the prospects that OPEC might enter 1990 with only another partial agreement.

Excess supply might mean volatile prices for a few months but good demand was likely to help them back up later.

A delegate from a non-Gulf exporter said it looked as if the Gulf states saw \$15 a barrel price as a floor, compared with a world average nearer \$18 recently.

A \$15 per barrel price might be lower than a cash-pinch OPEC majority would prefer, "but the big Gulf producers are in a position to do as they please."

Egyptian Oil Minister Abdul Hadi Kandeel, president of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) whose 10 ministers met here Monday, told reporters his personal opinion was that a stable market is in prospect.

"By stable I mean fluctuation of only a dollar a barrel either way," he said.

A ranking OPEC minister said privately there would always be some volatility in prices, but that he was "always sanguine about the outlook."

A top non-OPEC official who also spoke on condition he should not be identified, said the outcome of OPEC meeting might not make much difference.

"OPEC is beginning to be rather like a group of people in a coffee shop. And those at the next table are losing interest in what they say," he noted.

Delegates here said the three big Gulf producers, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE certainly did not seem worried enough about softening prices to modify positions which had blocked accord on a leakproof

quota system at previous OPEC meetings this year.

MEES said Saudi Arabia, the biggest exporter, regarded its 24.46 per cent share of the total OPEC volume as an absolute minimum. MEES said this was "the unshakable linchpin of Saudi policy."

"The Saudis felt they were in fact entitled to a bigger share," MEES added.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer declined any comment here on OPEC issues, but Gulf-based sources said the MEES report was a summary of the Saudi position.

OPEC Secretary-General Abdul Aziz Al Wattani of Iraq said rising oil demand put Arab producers in a comfortable position. He expected a decline in output from non-Arab producers and stronger demand in the Third World and Eastern Europe.

Algerian Oil Minister Saddek Boussena said OPEC should take a flexible approach to resolve differences over quota allocations at its bi-annual meeting in Vienna.

"Quotas is an issue that should be studied by OPEC with flexibility. Algeria supports an agreement by consensus which will ensure the unity of the organisation," Boussena said after the OAPEC meeting.

"We hope this agreement will be reached as soon as possible and in November," he added.

OPEC oil ministers will meet in Vienna Nov. 25 to discuss output levels for the first half of 1990 and a possible redistribution of OPEC's individual quota allocations.

Boussena declined to answer questions on what level OPEC should produce in the first quarter of next year.

"We will have to look at the figures of our experts who are still meeting in Vienna," he said.

He said oil prices were still strong, but acknowledged the group's present production was too high.

He also said Algeria was still opposed to OPEC's September agreement.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday November 20, 1989 Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	640.0	646.0	102.0
Pound Sterling	1002.5	1012.5	442.5
Deutsche mark	346.5	350.1	446.9
Swiss franc	391.5	395.4	307.1
French franc			99.0
Japanese yen (for 100)			47.2
Dutch guilder			165.6
Swedish crown			100.0
Italian lire (for 100)			47.2
Belgian franc (for 10)			165.6

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

	U.S. dollars	U.S. dollars
One Sterling	1.5550/60	1.1700/10
One U.S. dollar	1.1700/10	1.8423/30
	2.0790/97	2.0790/97
	1.6310/20	38.70/73
	6.2675/725	1353/1354
	144.63/73	6.4650/700
	6.9300/50	7.1675/725
One ounce of gold	393.20/393.60	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — High turnover in Santos shares after Elders Resources NZFP sold its 12 per cent stake dominated an otherwise lacklustre day on the Australian share market. The All Ordinaries index rose 1.3 to 1635.6.

TOKYO — Tokyo share prices succumbed to gravity after climbing eight consecutive sessions last week. The Nikkei index fell 70.16 to close at 35,893.58.

HONG KONG — Share prices rose but finished off early gains. The Hang Seng index rose 15.99 to 2,820.28.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed broadly higher on renewed buying interest and bargain hunting. The Straits Times industrial index rose 7.65 points to 1,345.34.

BOMBAY — Share prices ended mixed on across-the-board buying by state-owned investment trusts after the market opened nervously ahead of general elections later this week.

FRANKFURT — German shares failed to rally on positive corporate news from the chemicals and pharmaceuticals sectors. The 30-share DAX index closed 1.18 points higher at 1,532.70.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed mixed with a positive undertone. The all-share Swiss performance index put on 3.2 points to 1107.0.

PARIS — French share prices firmed moderately by midsession in fairly quiet business. The CAC-40 index added 2.55 points to 1,840.21.

LONDON — Shares sank to new lows for the day as sterling and Wall Street weakened. By 1538 GMT the FTSE-100 index was 27.7 points down at 2,193.7.

NEW YORK — Wall Street blue chips were modestly lower in early trading, undercut by profit-taking after Friday's solid advance. The Dow was off one at 2651.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

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"Something interesting happened at work today. My boss tried to shove a file cabinet up my nose."

HARRIS 10-26

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BREEL
CONOR
DESEEC
UNTTAR

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: RAINY BIPED AROUND EMBARK

Yesterday's Jumbles: RAINY BIPED AROUND EMBARK

Answer: When rock-'n'-roll was first introduced, some old-timers said it should be this—"BAND"

Peanuts

WHEN YOU GO TO SCHOOL, YOU SHOULD ALWAYS CARRY A SOFT LUNCH.

A SOFT LUNCH?

TO LEAN AGAINST WHILE YOU'RE WAITING FOR THE BUS.

Andy Capp

HEY! PUT THAT BACK!

IT'S ONLY A FIVER! A FIVER IS A MERE NOTHING THESE DAYS!

Mutt'n' Jeff

WHAT'S GOIN' ON? KIDS THESE DAYS TALK AND ACT LIKE GROWN-UPS!

THAT'S BECAUSE CHILDREN OF TODAY ARE SO MUCH MORE ADVANCED THAN YOU WERE AT OUR AGE, SIR!

AS A MATTER OF FACT, SIR, WE HAVE ADVANCED SO RAPIDLY THAT WE HAVE SURPASSED YOU!

O.K., KIDS, YOU RUN THE ECONOMY, WE'LL GO BACK TO SCHOOL!

Algerian star says Egypt fabricated charges

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian soccer star Lakhdar Belloumi, returning from Cairo after a World Cup defeat, said the Egyptian media fabricated charges accusing him of partially blinding an Egyptian doctor in post-match violence.

"It was an affair completely mounted by the Egyptian media to prepare for the African nations cup (in Algeria next year)," Belloumi told reporters at Algiers airport, where 2,000 people greeted the returning national team.

Egypt beat Algeria 1-0 in Cairo last Friday to qualify for the World Cup finals for the first time since 1934.

Egyptian state prosecutors

charged Belloumi with attacking and causing permanent disability to the Egyptian doctor.

Belloumi was questioned Saturday about the incident and released on bail of 10,000 Egyptian pounds (\$3,800) pending further inquiries.

The Algerian news agency APS quoted M'hia Mohamed, a member of the Algerian Football Federation, as saying the Algerian team was subjected to "insults, obscene gestures and harassment."

In the eastern Algerian city of Constantine, several hundred youths marched through the streets Sunday to denounce what they called Egyptian chauvinism, APS said.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

REAL MADRID EXTENDS LEAD: Beleaguered Real Madrid manager John Toshack had Hugo Sanchez to thank for a lucky 3-2 win against Tenerife Sunday. The Mexican struck twice late in the match to lift Real to a three-point lead in the Spanish championship. In spite of a first half dominated by Tenerife, Emilio Butragueno put the visitors 1-0 up two minutes from the interval when he picked up a neatly-placed pass from Michel Gonzalez to surprise Uruguayan goalkeeper Eduardo Belza. But Luis Delgado equalized a minute later and the hosts went ahead in the 46th minute with a goal from Brazilian Aguilado "Gua" Cayon. Tenerife were unlucky not to extend their lead to 3-1 when Real defender Oscar Ruggeri brought down striker Felipe Fernandez in the 68th minute. The tackle looked like a clear penalty but it was not awarded.

UNITED STATES BEATS TRINIDAD-TOBAGO: The United States advanced to the World Cup finals for the first time in 40 years by beating Trinidad and Tobago 1-0 Sunday on Paul Caligiuri's goal in the 30th minute. Trinidad, playing before a boisterous overflow crowd of 35,000 at national stadium, needed only a tie to become the smallest nation ever to qualify for the World Cup. But Caligiuri spoiled the national celebration with a spectacular left-footed shot. Tab Ramos made a throw-in and Caligiuri raced down the left side before sending a curving, dipping shot that went into the upper right corner. Michael Maurice, the Trinidad goalkeeper, was in the middle of the net and had no chance to stop the shot.

YUGOSLAVIA TO JAIL DOPERS: Yugoslav sportsmen and women caught using performance-enhancing drugs could be jailed, a top sports official said Monday. "We are in the process of introducing very heavy fines for those involved in using doping," said Dusan Dragun, chief of Yugoslavia's federal sports committee. "In repeated cases abusers will be prosecuted by law and will face jail sentences," he added. Dragun said the new ruling, to be introduced by January 1990, would cover competitors, coaches, doctors and officials.

AC MILAN HIT LEAGUE FORM: After a poor start to the season, European champion AC Milan finally rediscovered their beat league form by beating arch-rivals Internazionale 3-0 Sunday. League leaders Napoli, despite an early penalty from Diego Maradona, could manage only a 1-1 draw at home to Sampdoria.

MARSEILLE SIGNING YOUNG STAR DESCHAMPS: Fast-rising midfield star Didier Deschamps was to sign for French champions Marseille on Monday, his current club Nantes said. Deschamps, who though just 21 is Nantes club captain, has established himself in the French national team this season where he looks set to become one of Michel Platini's kingpins. On Saturday he won his fifth cap in a World Cup qualifier against Cyprus and netted his second goal, opening the scoring in the 2-0 victory with a superb 25-metre, left-foot volley. Nantes said Deschamps would sign a four-and-a-half year contract with Marseille.

KHOURIGBA RETURN TO TOP OF MOROCCAN FIRST DIVISION: Champions Khourigba returned to the top of the Moroccan first division after the ninth day of the contest this weekend with a 2-0 victory over struggling forces Auxiliaries. Nearest rivals Kenitra and Raja Casablanca have one match in hand.

ROMANIAN BOBSLEDDER DIES OF INJURIES: Romanian bobsledder Daniel Oaida died early Monday in a Dresden hospital from injuries received during training for the World Cup bobsled races, the East German news agency ADN reported.

Graf leaves mark on women's tennis

NEW YORK (R) — With her victory over Martina Navratilova in the year-end women's tennis championships on Sunday, Steffi Graf won the one major title that eluded her in her "golden slam" year of 1988.

It was only fitting that the final championship of the 1980s was contested by the two players who will be forever linked to the decade in tennis history.

No matter how much success Graf achieves in the years to come, she will always be remembered for winning all four grand slam tournaments and the Olympic gold medal at the age of 19 in 1988.

But because Graf won Sunday's final playing on a severely twisted ankle, she considers it one of the most gratifying victories of her career.

"This one I didn't expect at all. The others I did," she said of the 6-4, 7-5, 2-6, 6-2 win.

It was only afterward that she revealed just how much the ankle had been bothering her.

"When I came out to practice this morning I had very bad pain and I couldn't move," Graf said. "I told the tournament people they might have to find a replacement for me."

Despite losing the French Open, Graf actually had a better season than her "golden slam" year.

In 1988 Graf won 10 titles and lost three matches. This year she dropped just two as she posted an amazing 83-2 record while reaching the final of every single tournament she entered, winning 14 including Wimbledon and the U.S. and Australian opens.

And her game continued to improve. Her serve is much more

of a weapon than it was a year ago and she no longer spends an entire match blasting away from the baseline.

In this tournament the West German displayed an effective net game that will only improve as she relies on it more.

Graf takes a 40-match winning streak into 1990 and it seems only a matter of time before she eclipses Navratilova's 74-match consecutive win record.

But it was Navratilova who dominated the game for most of the 1980s and she deserved a place in the decade's final final.

She was number one in the world from 1982 through August of 1987 when Graf took over and the Czechoslovak-born American won 15 grand slam singles titles in the 1980s.

"I'm surprised that I'm still going strong into the 90s. I've had a great 10 years," she said after suffering her fourth consecutive defeat to Graf.

But Navratilova, 33, is not one



Steffi Graf

to dwell on past achievements. "I don't think about the Wimbledon that I've won or the U.S. opens that I've won. You think about the ones that got away."

The 16-player season finale proceeded without a single upset, but despite the lack of surprise the event provided a showcase for a couple of the game's future stars.

While the tournament's defending champion Gabriela Sabatini was the only player who beat Graf in both 1988 and 1989, the

third-ranked Argentine still lacks the stamina and mental toughness to beat Graf in big tournaments.

First there is Arantxa Sanchez, who at 17 already has a grand slam title to her credit — she upset Graf in this year's French Open final.

Sanchez reached the semifinals before bowing to Navratilova and the bubbly Spanish teenager displayed great court speed and tremendous confidence in addition to a personality that is bound to win fans around the world.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1989

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This would be a good day not to report for work, to get caught up on your rest and to build up your mental, physical and spiritual resources.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A resourceful associate will have very good ideas for you. Avoid a tendency to be dissatisfied at your residence.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) Adopt a new more practical attitude where your business is concerned. You can easily time in on what your family expects from you now.

Gemini: (May 21 to June 21) Don't argue over the bill in taking friends to restaurants. Make a point to avoid moodiness with your loved ones now.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can get friends to help you with your entertainment problems now and have a good time. A big wig will aid you with money and business.

Leo: (July 22 to August 21) A fixed course of action pertaining to your home should now be put in motion. Much talk with your loved one will bring a better meeting of minds.

Virgo: (August 22 to September 22) Hold a tight rein and refuse to spend much money today. Partners want your time and will take you from friends if you allow it.

Libra: (September 23 to October 22) Have a more fixed policy where your business and finances are concerned. A very good day to

take jaunts to see good friends.

Scorpio: (October 23 to November 21) Big ideas of a practical nature can now be helpful to you. Stick to proven friends in social matters at this time.

Sagittarius: (November 22 to December 21) Tensions at home require that you at least keep calm and poised. A good time for accounting where your business and money is concerned.

Capricorn: (December 22 to January 20) Avoid involving your family in an outside argument that you have had. Much data you need can be now easily acquired from a number of experts.

Aquarius: (January 21 to February 19) Make as many new friends and acquaintances as you are able to now. Invite influential persons that you have dealings with into your home today.

Pisces: (February 20 to March 20) Don't be too emotional with your attachment or you lose some affection. Don't argue with an associate over a joint obligation.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will be one of those super active young persons whose mind and body are well co-ordinated and will benefit greatly from a good education in a liberal arts programme and a business course as a co-major. Interests in drama, art and music will go beyond the ordinary.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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WHAT WAS THAT BID AGAIN!

East-West vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ K Q 9 5 2
♥ A K 4 3
♦ 9 5
♣ K 6

WEST
♠ A 7 4
♥ Void
♦ A K Q J 8 4 3 0 7
♣ 8 2

EAST
♠ Void
♥ K 8 7 5
♦ A K Q J 8 4 3 0 7
♣ A Q J 10 9 7 3

SOUTH
♠ J 10 3
♥ Q J 9 6 2
♦ 10 6 2
♣ 5 4

The bidding:

West North East South

1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass

3 ♠ 3 ♥ 4 ♠ 5 ♠

Pass Pass!! Pass!!

Opening lead: Eight of ♠

Dear Charlie:

I spent a pleasant few days last

month in Dallas at The Mansion on

Turtle Creek. I was there both to

attend the Rams exhibition and to

play in a few gala bridge events.

This hand is from a rubber bridge

party that was held in my honor.

Looking at the bidding, you

might think this hand was played by

a quartet of novices! Quite the con-

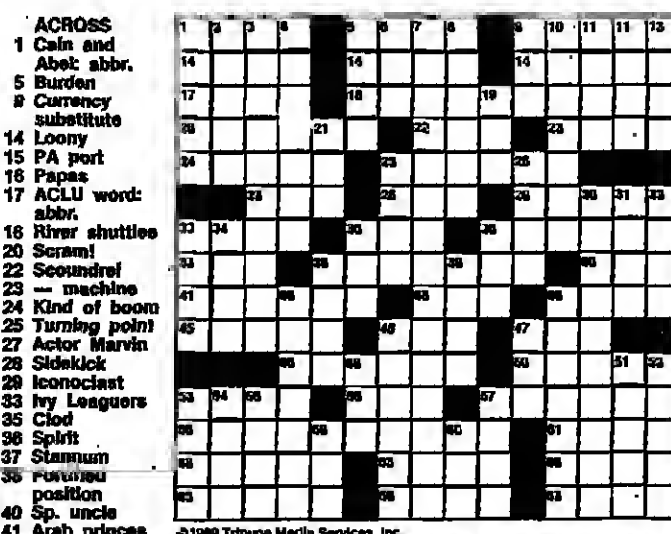
trary. I was East, world champions

far as my four-club bid. Bobby decided to take advantage of the vulnerability to slip in a fake cue-bid of five clubs. Jim passed and Tannah, after taking a few moments to decide that any undoubted penalty at five clubs was likely to be less than any doubled penalty at a major, also passed. Not surprisingly, that brought a murmur from our gallery.

I had no idea who could make what. After some thought, I decided that the undoubted penalty at five clubs, with my 100 honors, was likely to be as good as we would get against five of a major doubled. So I, too, chose to pass—much to the delight of the spectators.

Jim led a trump, and we took 13 tricks. That brought us a total of 650 points—not quite enough, under the circumstances. With the club doubling outside, we could have made a grand slam in clubs or diamonds on any lead. However, as you can see even a small slam is no bargain.

THE Daily Crossword by Hank Harrington



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

Across: 1. Cane and abet; 2. Currency; 3. Substituted; 4. Loony; 5. PA port; 6. Pappas; 7. ACIL word; 8. River shuttle; 9. Scram; 10. Second; 11. Machine; 12. Kind of boom; 13. Turning point; 14. Actor; 15. Stalemate; 16. Innocent; 17. League; 18. Cid; 19. Spirit; 20. Cinnamon; 21. Position; 22. Sp. uncle; 23. Arab prince; 24. Dile to R.E. Lee; 25. Getz; 26. Deane or Left; 27. de mer; 28. Spillover; 29. Forestal; 30. Untrack; 31. Wish; 32. In — (disordered); 33. More irritable; 34. True; 35. Division word; 36. Noddy; 37. Grid units; 38. Commercial vessels; 39. Frost; 40. Auditors; 41. Branding; 42. Miscount; 43. Lamb; 44. Ponce de; 45. Lat. abbr.; 46. VIP car; 47. Latin pact letters; 48. Extinct; 49. Scot. hillside; 50. Small land mass; 51. Gawk; 52. Makes beloved; 53. Arab; 54. Accident; 55. Cup bundle; 56. Family member; 57. Dripping; 58. West; 59. For

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5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

DELUXE FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

Consisting of 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with central heating. Location: 4th Circle, Jabal Amman.

For further information please call Tel. 644778 Amman.

SECRETARY REQUIRED

With the following qualifications:

- 1) English, American or Jordanian nationality.
- 2) Degree in English from US or UK university.
- 3) Experience with secretarial work and publication.

Please, send C.V. to P.O. Box: 5476, Amman.

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New super deluxe furniture. Consists of 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, dining room, sitting room, 2 salons, 2 verandas, new large kitchen with all electric facilities, telephone, garden, front and back yard, garage, separate central heating and entrance. Location: Shmeisani, near the former building of Al Dostour newspaper.

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Local advertising agency is seeking a full-time graphic designer/paste-up artist — experience is an asset. Salary commensurate to qualifications.

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Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

STAR MAN

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOUN

BATMAN

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 674111

PLAZA

THE PICK UP ARTIST

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Blast rocks Yugoslav disaster mine

[illegible]